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Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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# Japan govt restricts Saipan visits

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Another fallout in the ongoing threat of North Korea to shoot a missile near Guam is that the Japanese government appears to be reining in travel to anywhere near the U.S. territory.

Some 57 students were set to travel to Saipan through an exchange program offered by the Saipan Mayor's Office, but that plan got cancelled yester-

See JAPAN on Page 4

## Kobler basketball court trashed anew

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Less than two weeks after it was unveiled with new trimmings, the Koblerville basketball court has once again been trashed and vandalized.

Authorities found yesterday the newly renovated basketball court bleachers riddled with betel nut stains, the ceiling area has markings resembling the letter "R," and the area surrounding the bleachers have trash scattered all over the floor.

See KOBLER on Page 4

## Tourist visits to Grotto to be limited

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A core group of agencies will be working together to limit tourist visits to the Grotto in Marpi for safety reasons.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources are in talks of setting up a gate at the Grotto.

BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman said the gate would seek to ensure the safety of those who visit the Grotto.

Rabauliman said the gate will limit the number of visitors at the Grotto and monitor how many individuals are there.

The group is concerned with

See TOURIST on Page 4

## Field of Heroes remembers 9/11

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog pose with members of the TSL Foundation and representatives of the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting department.

ERWIN ENCINARES

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A private-led effort to remember 9/11 victims and the hundreds of emergency responders kicked off yesterday with a proclamation signing at the Office of the Governor that also signaled the start of efforts to raise both funds and awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Surrounded by veterans, law enforcers, Tan Siu Lin Foundation officials, and Tan-Holdings executives, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed yesterday a proclamation declar-

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# Local

## DFEMS probes Gualo Rai fire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Investigators are still looking into the cause of a fire that gutted a house across the New XO Market in Gualo Rai on Wednesday morning.

In its report released Wednesday night, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services said their scene investigation revealed that the fire started at the eastern side of the house. It then traveled south and spread to all the combustible materials in the house, the agency said.

The fire engulfed the one-story house, which then collapsed. The structure was made of light materials.

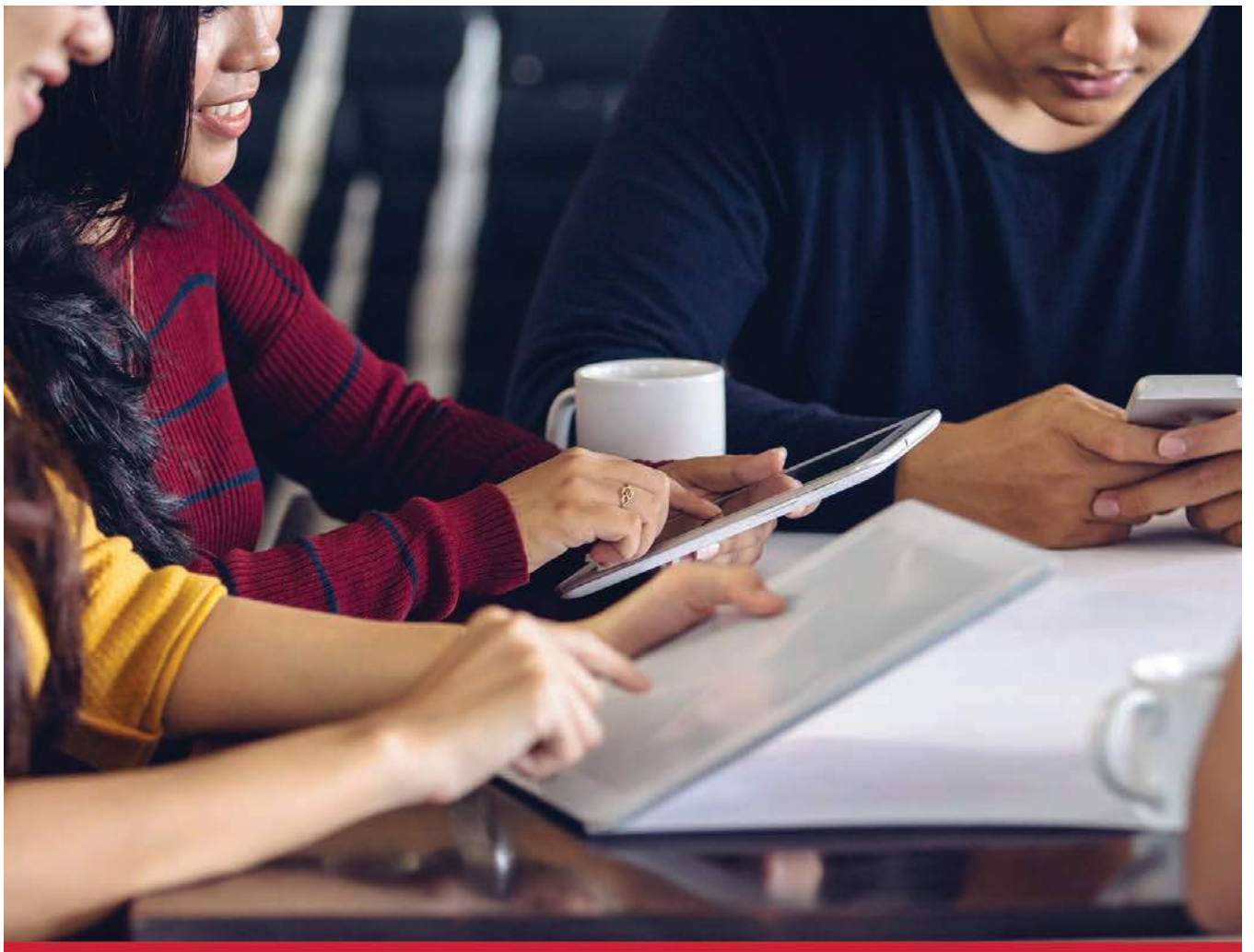
DFEMS said they received the call about the fire at 9:12am and firefighters/medics from Susupe and Garapan fire stations immediately responded.

DFEMS said the fire was placed under control at 9:36am.

No one was injured during the blaze.

Victoria Catbagan, 53, and her common-law husband, Romeo Tajan, 59, were both working at the New XO Market when the fire occurred. The couple's money and all their belongings, including a Mitsubishi Mirage 1996, turned into ash.

The couple suspects that somebody burglarized the house and intentionally set it on fire.

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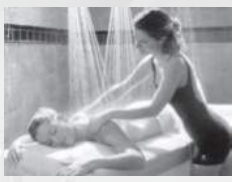

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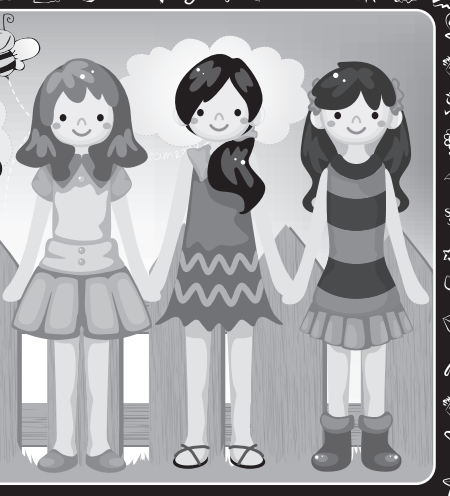

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# Attorney: 'Cautiously optimistic' in Guam clergy sex abuse talks

**HAGATNA, Guam** (AP)—Pre-mediation talks to discuss settling the more than 100 cases alleging child sex abuse by Guam clergy and others related to the church have begun.

The *Pacific Daily News* reports those attending the talks, which started Monday in Honolulu, say if the parties do not agree to written mediation protocols, formal mediation talks might not happen as planned in October, and the cases could go to trial.

The parties have yet to agree on whether retired Oregon Judge Michael Hogan should serve as the mediator.

Hawaii-based attorney Randall L.K.M. Rosenberg says he is "cautiously optimistic." Rosenberg is working with Guam attorney Anthony Perez and other U.S. lawyers to represent nine clergy sex abuse plaintiffs.

He says they will file a 10th clergy sex abuse lawsuit soon.

# Kagman Community Park hosts grand opening

Government officials strongly urge the youth of Kagman to use but respect the new Kagman Community Park.

The Rotary Club of Saipan held a grand unveiling of the park yesterday morning, with Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) all urging that the community park be used with respect so that its life will be prolonged for future generations.

Apatang said the park is truly a great project because Kagman is a huge precinct and its youth population deserves a place where they can be active and safe.

Apatang thanked the Rotary Club for their efforts in creating the park and giving the youth of Kagman the opportunity to be active and away from the lure of illegal drugs.

Hocog also shared his appreciation to the Rotary Club for accomplishing Phase 1 of the park project and urged students not to vandalize it, similar to how the newly renovated Koblerville basketball court has been vandalized.

Rotary Club vice president Brian Clayton said the club remains hopeful that it will be able to obtain the necessary funds to complete the second half of the park.

The Rotary initiated the construction of the park over seven months ago. The group decided that it was financially easier to split the project into two phases.

Half of Phase I was funded by a grant from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the second half was funded by the Rotary Club itself.

Phase II includes the sidewalks and equipment that can be used by adults.

Two weeks ago, the group conducted its soft opening with the participation of Rotary Club district governor Masamori Sawatari.

Yesterday, the club hosted a grand opening with the first phase of the park fully completed. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

# Results of 2016 HIE survey now out

**By BEA CABRERA**
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REPORTER

Eleven years after the last survey was done in 2005, the results of the 2016 Housing, Income & Expenditure survey on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are now out, providing a much needed update to the CNMI's consumer price index.

The Central Statistics Division of the Department of Commerce released the survey results last week, and the results will be used to revise and update the consumer price index to reflect the most current buying patterns of CNMI residents.

Central Statistics Division director Justin Andrew said the survey is not done every year. "Aside from it being expensive, as per the International Labor Organization that developed the framework for the HIES, it is recommended that we do it every five years," he said.

The 2005 survey became the basis for computing the CPI but the intervening years now require the CPI to be updated.

"We use what's available. We stand by the numbers we produce. So even if it is old numbers or data and we don't have any updates to it, that's the one we have and we will use it," Andrew said.

In his message attached to the report, Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman said the instrument used and almost all the questions asked in both 2005 and 2016 surveys are identical, which allowed for a time series analysis.

Andrew said that doing the HIE survey is highly recommended when there is something happening within an economy, to check whether it is improving or deteriorating quickly "so we can gauge the situation right there."

According to Andrew, the purpose of the survey was to collect expenditure information for the CPI revision.

The CPI, or consumer price index, reflects the most current buying patterns. "A good example would be the electronic devices that have just shown up in the market after 2005. Those will be considered for the consumer pricing index item basket," said Andrews.

The HIES also allows the Department of Commerce to gather information on housing and population.

"The survey answers the questions 'How many houses are there, the percentage of houses that are made of what materials, what percentage of houses have plumbing system, how fast is the internet connection, etc.?"

"It also provides us the characteristics of the household, take a look at how many people reside in the CNMI and we estimate the number of people we have here based on the survey number we collect," he added.

Andrew said the income part of the survey gave the average household income, average family income, how many people are in income brackets, and poverty rates.

Some of the highlights of the 2016 HIES include:

■ The survey was conducted randomly among 53,890 CNMI residents: 48,200 on Saipan, 3,056 on Tinian, and about 2,635 on Rota.

■ The CNMI had somewhat more males than females in 2016. The median age of the CNMI population in 2005 was 29.4 years, which is moderately high for Pacific Islands' population. The median increased to 33.4, an increase of four years over the past 11 years. This rate is obviously higher, and shows an aging population with fewer babies being born in the Commonwealth, and continued high number of foreign workers.

■ The sex ratio in the CNMI switched between 2005 and 2016, from more females (because of the garment factories) to more male in 2016 (because of increased construction).

■ About 1 in 5 CNMI residents in both 2005 and 2016 spoke Chamorro at home. However, the percentage speaking Chamorro decreased during the 11-year period.

According to Andrew, they encourage the public to look and study the data, which is available in the Commerce website: commerce.gov.mp.

"Anybody can use the information for anything that they want, information to help government programs, policy making, program decisions, social and health services, public safety, education and businesses," he said.

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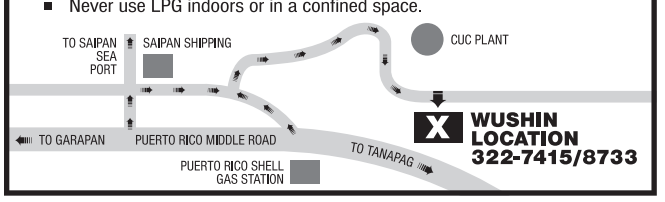


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# Magazine seeks nominees for Executive of the Year honor

*Guam Business Magazine* is now accepting nominations for its 2017 Executive of the Year award.

The process is easy and quick. Anyone can do it online at www.guambusinessmagazine.com.

Some of the award's former winners in the CNMI are Marian Aldan Pierce (2000), Juan T. "Pan" Guerrero (2003), David M. Sablan (2005), Jerry Tan (2009), Norman Tenorio (2014) and Jose C. Ayuyu (2016).

Nominations must be made by Sept. 29, 2017, and the winner will be announced at a gala that will be held at the Hyatt Regency Guam on Jan. 13, 2018. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

## TOURIST

*From Page 1*

how treacherous the stairways are. "It is an accident waiting to happen," he said.

Rabauliman said the BECQ, MVA, and DLNR have been scoping the Grotto area for a few weeks now and have found that the area is swarming everyday with tourists, scuba divers, and local residents who want to visit the area.

According to Rabauliman, he has witnessed how packed the Grotto stairways get from all the individuals who go up and down and who are just standing there to take pictures. Scuba divers also carry their tanks up and down the Grotto stairway and can't get through because of the tourists who are descending and ascending.

The plan is that MVA would pay for the construction of the gate, DLNR will establish the regulations and manage the gate, and BECQ will oversee the project. Details have yet to be finalized but it was discussed that a scheduling system will be put into play or a ticket system will be put in place.

The idea is to open the Grotto at 8:30am and close it at 5pm.

The Grotto is swarming everyday with tourists, scuba divers, and local residents who want to visit the area. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## JAPAN

*From Page 1*

day because of the order from the Japanese government.

The students from the Johoku All-Boys High School in Hiroshima have travelled to Saipan every year since 2014. That exchange program had allowed hundreds of Japanese students to visit the island and experience its beauty.

According to exchange student program coordinator Yuuki Kishimoto, the students were set to arrive on Saipan on Oct. 17 and were organized to stay with host families.

Yesterday, Kishimoto received word from program coordinator Ikuo Yoshizawa, who arranges the program on Saipan, that they are mandated to cancel their trip to Saipan.

That cancellation is being blamed on the active nuclear testing of North Korea. It is for the students' safety that the government restricts all flights to Saipan and areas near Guam, Kishimoto said.

Many host families were ready for the arrival of their host students, but because of the issues with North Korea, Kishimoto has started to call each family up with the news.

According to the Kishimoto, Yoshizawa informed her that it is beyond their control.

"They are very regretful for the cancellation but it is something beyond their control," she said.

Although their trip was cancelled, Yoshizawa and the students still greatly appreciate the continued support of the Saipan mayor and the host families who were preparing for their visit this year, Kishimoto said.

In a previous interview, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said he is not worried about North Korea.

Apatang believes that North Korea will not push through with harming anyone, as China will not back North Korea if it deliberately harms the United States.

He also believes the United States will not allow North Korea to harm the country and its territories. "The United States is the most powerful country in the world… it would be like waking up a sleeping giant," he said.

Apatang hopes for the best and for peace to prevail.

## FIELD

*From Page 1*

ing Sept. 11 to 18 as Field of Heroes Recognition Week.

The week marks the start of the weeklong 2nd Annual Field of Heroes, which seeks to unite the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota community to remember the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, especially "those who have perished" as well as honor those who responded to the call for help in its aftermath and those who continue to battle terrorism up to this day.

The 2nd Annual Field of Heroes would entail the posting of American flags on Saipan at the American Memorial Park on Sept. 10.

Flags have already been posted at the Tinian Veterans Memorial Park last Sept. 5 and Rota's Corporal Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Veterans Memorial Park last Sept. 7.

Individuals and companies sponsor the posting of the flags. A $10 donation sponsors a flag at the event site, with the donor's names and the recipient's names; a $15 donation gets you an event shirt; and a $20 sponsorship will get you a 3x5 flag that may be claimed on Sept. 18 onwards, or after the retiring of the flags. Proceeds would finance the treatment of local PTSD patients.

Those interested in donating to patients with PTSD may proceed to any Shirley's Coffee Shop branches in Garapan and Susupe or any iShop location at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, and Paseo de Marianas. Those interested in donating on Rota and Tinian may visit their respective mayor's offices for donations.

A ceremony remembering Sept. 11, 2001, would be held at the American Memorial Park and at Tinian's Veterans Memorial Park on Sept. 11, while Rota's ceremony would be held today.

Prior to the ceremony, a freedom walk would ensue at 5pm, starting from Garapan Fishing Base to the American Memorial Park.

## KOBLER

*From Page 1*

At the court's ribbon cutting last Aug. 28, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres specifically asked the public to keep the court clean and taken cared of.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said yesterday that Torres' priority remains providing "better services and more resources for the youth" in the CNMI.

"The most important thing is that we continue to be vigilant and work together so that we have more of a community involvement when it comes to vandalism like this," he added.

Bautista said the administration has been vocal about its "dismay and distaste" for vandalisms such as this.

The nearby Koblerville Youth Center was vandalized last Aug. 18, making it the fourth time the center had been vandalized since 2017. The recent incident forced the center to shut down for renovation and safety improvements while upping security measures.

"We have been pretty public about our dismay and distaste for this type of behavior and we encourage our members of the public to really hone in on taking ownership of the [facilities] that have been provided to them, not just by the government but also the private sector and community stakeholders who really believe in empowering our youth," Bautista said, adding that the basketball court is also a haven for the youth to "grow and develop."

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) led efforts to have the Koblerville basketball court renovated with funds from the private sector, saying that getting the funds from the government is slower.

Bautista said the Torres administration is going to be collaborating with the departments and agencies "to be able to clean up the vandalism—we are not going to be idle about this," adding that the administration "wants to be able to maintain it."

# Proceedings in theft case vs ex-NMC exec is suspended

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

At the request of the Office of the Attorney General, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho suspended the proceedings in the case against the former maintenance manager of the Northern Marianas College who is accused of stealing the school's gasoline supply.

Camacho ordered that the case against 43-year-old Phillip A. Fejeran Jr. be taken off-calendar. The bench trial scheduled for Oct. 16, 2017, is vacated.

In the government's motion to suspend proceedings last Tuesday, assistant attorney general Heather P. Barcinas disclosed that Fejeran was accepted into the Adult Diversion Program under the Office of Adult Probation and that the agreement was filed with the court.

It means that if the defendant complies with some conditions in the agreement, the case charging him with one count of theft will be dismissed.

The government alleged that on March 7, 2017, March 10, 2017, May 2, 2017, and May 3, 2017, Fejeran stole gasoline belonging to NMC totaling $183 by using NMC's open fleet card. An Office of the Public Auditor's investigation into the alleged theft led to Fejeran's arrest last May.

Fejeran pleaded not guilty.

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**BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT**

Happy first birthday to Leondrae Barrios, who celebrated his natal day last Saturday, Sept. 2, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's World Café. In photo with Leondrae are his parents J.R. and Dolly and sister Raven.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Probable cause found vs 1 of 2 in alleged robbery

The Superior Court found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against one of two ex-convicts accused of robbing a female tourist in western Garapan.

At a preliminary hearing, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to believe that Lucky M. Chipuelong, 30, may have committed robbery, conspiracy to commit theft, and assault and battery. His lawyer is Samuel Mok.

Arraignment will be on Sept. 18 at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid called to the witness stand police detective Roque Camacho, who is in charge of the case.

Chipuelong's co-defendant cousin, Angel Chipuelong Ruben, 32, waived his right to a preliminary hearing. Assistant public defender Shoshanah Epstein is his counsel.

Chipuelong allegedly told police that they conspired to rob the tourist and that it was Ruben who grabbed her purse last Thursday midnight.

A concerned citizen who witnessed the robbery followed the suspects' car, resulting in the arrest of the two.

The tourist sustained scratches and bruises on the right wrist, left thumb, and left leg when one suspect allegedly grabbed her purse while she and a female friend were walking on Palm Street near Noodle House. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***


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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Veterans benefits outreach today

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (non-health) will be conducting a veterans benefits outreach today, Sept. 8, 2017, from 9am to 3pm, at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. This will be a one-on-one outreach. Kalani Echang, legal administrative specialist, will be available to answer questions and take your claims. For an appointment call Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. All veterans, family members, and veteran widowers are encouraged to avail to their services. ***(PR)***

### CNMI Scholarship deadline for NMC's PLA Program

The CNMI Scholarship Office has extended the deadline to submit scholarship applications for the Prior Learning Assessment program to today, Sept. 8, 2017. Students who would like to apply for financial aid for NMC's PLA program can submit a scholarship application to the CNMI Scholarship Office in Capitol Hill no later than today, Sept. 8, 2017. For more information, contact Raymond Muna by calling 237-6746 or emailing raymond.muna@marianas.edu. Additional information is also available at marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

### Philippine e-passports now ready for release

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with honorary consul Eli Arago in the CNMI, is now releasing new passports to those who renewed their passport last July 10,11,12 and 13, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Bldg. D, second floor, on top of the Mini-Mart Store, from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm (12-1pm is break time). Bring your old passport and receipt. For any inquiry or details call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

### PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile outreach on Saipan starting today Sept. 8, until Sept. 11, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos. ***(PR)***

### Class of 1987 gears up for reunion

The Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***


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# Bautista is named press secretary

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recently appointed Kevin Bautista to serve as press secretary for the Office of the Governor.

Bautista, who has been acting press secretary since March, succeeds Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), who moved on to represent Precinct 3 in the 20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

"Kev has been a part of my team since 2015 when I was lieutenant governor. He has assisted in the development of policies, worked on legislation, and has directed our communications for the administration. He is honest, passionate, and has good judgment. I'm confident that he will demonstrate the integrity needed for this role as move forward," Torres said.

Bautista

Prior to this new position, Bautista served as policy analyst and special projects coordinator for the Office of the Governor under chief of staff Matthew DeLeon Guerrero.

Bautista described his role as a position of advocacy and accountability.

"The press secretary is an advocate for the public's right to know about their government and to communicate the governor's priorities through our media partners. Our community has an insatiable appetite for content and deserves the right to be well-informed and to keep the administration accountable. Under Gov. Torres' leadership, this administration will continue to make sure the public is kept aware of what happens on Capital Hill, so that there is a real sense of public efficacy within our community," he said.

He noted that the administration is currently working on new initiatives to ensure better communication with the community and more transparency.

"The administration is devoting itself to being a more effective rapid response team that can handle disasters and crises in an effective and expedient manner. In times of high stress and emergency, every piece of vital information will now be streamlined to run through the appropriate agencies like [the Department of Public Safety], [Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services], and [Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management] and then delivered to the community in an accurate and transparent fashion," he said.

Bautista was an intern in Washington, D.C. in 2014 for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management-Office of Diversity and Inclusion and for the OCA–Asian Pacific American Advocates, one of the largest Asian American and Pacific Islander civil rights organizations in the country.

He was a research assistant for the University of Michigan Institute of Social Research from 2013 to 2014 and a research assistant for the University of Michigan Department of Political Science from 2012 to 2013.

He received his bachelor's degree in political science with minors in history and Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies from the University of Michigan. ***(PR)***

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Education Commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero, standing left, leads the discussion with her Public School System management team during yesterday's professional development training.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All Public School Systems program managers, program directors, program coordinators, principals, vice principals and associate commissioners attend an annual professional development training that was presided over by Education Commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero, standing upper left.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# ARC-NMI to send three volunteers to help with Harvey disaster relief

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter is working around the clock along the Gulf Coast to help the thousands of people whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Harvey as well as preparing to respond to Hurricane Irma on the East Coast.

Thousands of people have been forced to leave their flooded homes, losing everything they own—and more rain and flooding is expected throughout the week. It is anticipated that many more families will be impacted.

Hundreds of Red Cross volunteers from all over the country are on the ground, working to provide safe shelter and comfort to families impacted by this devastating storm. Volunteers are also rushing into Florida to help prepare for the impact of Irma.

"The NMI Chapter has three of its volunteers in Texas now. We're thankful for the dedication of volunteers who are willing to help those in need," said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Chapter of the Red Cross. "If you would like to volunteer with the Red Cross, you can visit redcross.org to learn more about the many volunteer opportunities and how to submit a volunteer application. This would allow you to not only help on large disasters like Hurricane Harvey or Irma, but also when smaller disasters like home fires happen in our community".

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

We know our CNMI community is very generous and wants to do everything they can to help after a disaster. Unfortunately, collecting and sending food, clothing and other household items often does more harm than good. It takes time and money to transport, store, sort, clean and distribute donated items, which diverts limited time and resources away from helping those most affected. Instead, the best way to support disaster victims is with a financial donation.

The Red Cross depends on financial donations to be able to provide disaster relief immediately. Help people affected by Hurricane Harvey by visiting redcross.org, calling 1- 800-RED CROSS or Text to Give.

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The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the public to perform its mission. For more information, visit redcross.org/nmi. ***(PR)***

# Marianas team is honored for its Dommanaka participation

The Marianas' participation in 19th Annual Nippon Dommanaka Festival in Nagoya, Japan on Aug. 26-27, 2017, received wide national coverage, including special recognition in the *Chunichi Shinbun* newspaper.

The Marianas delegation of indigenous Carolinian dancers, sent by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Pacific Development Inc., were among 20,000-plus dancers that entertained festivalgoers.

At the Nagoya City Civic Reception House, the delegation attended a welcoming reception hosted by the mayor of Nagoya and supporting council members and business representatives.

"At the welcome reception, our Marianas Domannaka team was thanked and recognized for 15 years of contribution at the festival," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We're very honored to be one of the few dance troupes outside of Japan to be invited to the festival."

Local newspaper *Chunichi Shinbun* featured a photo of the Marianas delegation, including Miss Liberation Day Queen Peyton Gomez meeting Nagoya Mayor Kawamura. PDI managing director Gordon Marciano was also quoted in the article.

During the festival, the group performed on various stages throughout the city and walked in the festival parade. The MVA's office in Japan coordinated the team's participation. ***(MVA)***

MVA

The Marianas delegation to 19th Annual Nippon Dommanaka Festival attends the welcoming ceremony in Nagoya, Japan, on Aug. 25, 2017.

# Docomo Pacific launches disaster aid for Hurricane Harvey victims

**TAMUNING, Guam**—In true "Better Together" spirit, Docomo Pacific launched a fundraising initiative to assist the American Red Cross with disaster relief for communities in Texas and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Docomo Pacific Postpaid mobile customers in Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota can donate money by texting 1 to "HELP (4357)" on their Docomo Pacific phones. With each message sent, customers will donate $1 to the American Red Cross Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. Each contribution will appear on the customer's next statement. This fundraising initiative will run from Sept. 1 to Sept. 15. Customers may text as many times as they like.

Jonathan Kriegel, Docomo Pacific president and chief executive officer, said this fundraising initiative "allows our Docomo Pacific family in the Marianas to show our support for communities affected by Hurricane Harvey. This type of situation hits close to home. The people of Guam and the CNMI understand the impact a natural disaster takes on a community. We extend our heartfelt prayers of hope and recovery to the people of Texas and Louisiana."

Over the years Docomo Pacific has also led fundraising initiatives for victims of Typhoon Soudelor in the CNMI, Typhoon Maysak in Chuuk and Yap, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, and the 2011 tsunami in Japan. These efforts have yielded thousands of dollars in support. ***(PR)***


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**Travel period:** Travel must begin on or after September 16, 2017 and be completed on or before December 15, 2017; or begin on or after January 16, 2018 and be completed on or before April 30, 2018.

**Fare validity:** 15% discount is valid for fares in economy booking classes K, L, T, S, W and V and business booking classes P and Z. 5% discount is valid for fares in economy booking classes Q, H, U, E, M, B and Y, and business booking classes J, C, and D. Travel is valid on United®-operated flights and United flights operated by Cape Air only. Connections are valid through Guam (GUM), Honolulu (HNL) or Tokyo (NRT). MileagePlus® upgrades and other marketing programs are not permitted. Seats are capacity controlled and may not be available on all flights and/or dates.

**Miscellaneous:** Additional baggage fees and other optional service fees may apply. Other discounts and travel certificates are not applicable. Offer subject to change at any time. Advance purchase may be required. All published fare rules apply. Customers must buy tickets on united.com, through a United City Ticket Office, or through a travel agency using their FHB United MIleagePlus credit card to receive a discount.

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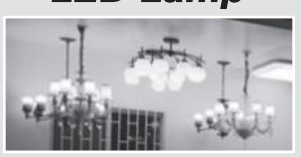

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Thank you to IPI-CSR for a vibrant looking school building.

# IPI's CSR team paints 12 Hopwood buildings

When the largest middle school in the CNMI opened for school year 2017-2018, returning and new students of the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School were greeted with a clean and vibrant school surrounding, courtesy of Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility program.

IPI-CSR held it School Pride Project at Hopwood from Aug. 24 to Sept. 6 after the middle school reached out for assistance, particularly with the exterior painting of 12 of its campus buildings.

"Thank you, Imperial Pacific and CSR. for painting our school," said school principal Rizalina Liwag on behalf of the school's leadership team and her student population. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Scott Leon Guerrero and Greg Sablan of Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility paint the wall during a School Project at Hopwood Middle School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Teamwork is key.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CSR's Marvin Palacios, Jowel Naputi, and D.J. Ayuyu team up to tackle the columns.

# A taste of Bali at the PIC buffet

**"I learned how to cook from my grandmother and mother when I was 9 years old growing up in Indonesia. Most of the dishes in the Taste of Bali dinner buffet will be from my family's recipes," says chef Sugent Pribadi of Pacific Islands Club.**

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Indonesian cuisine speaks to not just one's sense of taste but also appeals to the other senses: its vibrant colors appeal to the eyes, the sound of every bite is music to the ears, its fresh ingredients is a culinary experience, and the smell of authentic spices is inviting. Tasting dishes that are so rich in spices and flavors never fail to amaze.

Expect that and more in Taste of Bali, a dinner buffet happening at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan on Sept. 15 and 16.

PIC head chef Sugeng Pribadi is excited as he gets to serve what he considers the best dishes of the different islands of his motherland, Indonesia, from the appetizers, to the main dishes, and up to the desserts.

"We are going to showcase the best dishes of the different islands and provinces of Indonesia. This is the first time we are doing this at PIC and we hope that this will be the first of many times that we will celebrate the uniqueness of Indonesian cuisine," Pribadi said.

Those who get to try the Java Rice ala King from Java Island will truly feel like the king of Indonesia, Pribadi said, as this dish is very popular and served especially on special occasions.

"Whenever we have a big party for the government, like the president's party, Java Rice ala King is a priority on the menu. It is rice boiled in rich coconut milk with spices and presented like a mountain of rice on the plate with some meat, sliced scrambled eggs, and vegetables on the side."

"Java Rice ala King is already a meal in itself but pair it with other dishes and the combination is scrumptious."

Included in the buffet menu is the classic and popular dish called *Babi Guling* or suckling pig that's from the island of Bali.

"*Babi* means pig and *guling* means pillow in Indonesia. When we roast the pig, it actually looks like a pillow, [hence] the name. No visit to Bali is complete without having this dish."

From the island of Subaraya is the hearty soup called Soto Ayam (chicken noodle soup) and the tasty Oxtail Stew. Both dishes are guaranteed to elevate your taste buds.

Other popular Indonesian dishes like the *Nasi Goreng*, beef, chicken and lamb *satay* dipped in sweet peanut dressing and *Rendang* will be part of the mouthwatering array of dishes at the Taste of Bali. For vegetarians, flatbread with vegetable fillings will be served.

PIC's regular international dishes will still be available.

"Since Indonesia is composed of many different islands with unique food and tastes, it is somehow similar to the island of the CNMI. Same ingredients. We both rely heavily on coconut milk for our dishes so I hope residents will also come and enjoy a different taste," Pribaldi said.

He assures guests that the level of spiciness will be appropriate to their tastes and comfort. "We will make the dishes not really hot but mild. We understand we have a different culture here on Saipan. Some like it hot, some don't, so we make it mild so that it will cater to every taste."

The Taste of Bali is also a sort of post-celebration of Indonesia's Independence Day last August, when the country celebrates independence from British colonization.

"We are celebrating so many things for this weekend. That's why the Taste of Bali at PIC is going to be special and we invite everyone to come," Pribaldi said.

PIC Magellan has an ongoing promo—for a group of four people, only three customers will pay. This is available for lunch and dinner. This can be availed of during the Taste of Bali dinner buffet.

For reservations call PIC at 234-7976 or email sales@picsaipan.com. The dinner buffet is $37 for adults and $18.50 for children. A 10-percent discount for locals apply. Maximum of 12 people for reservations.

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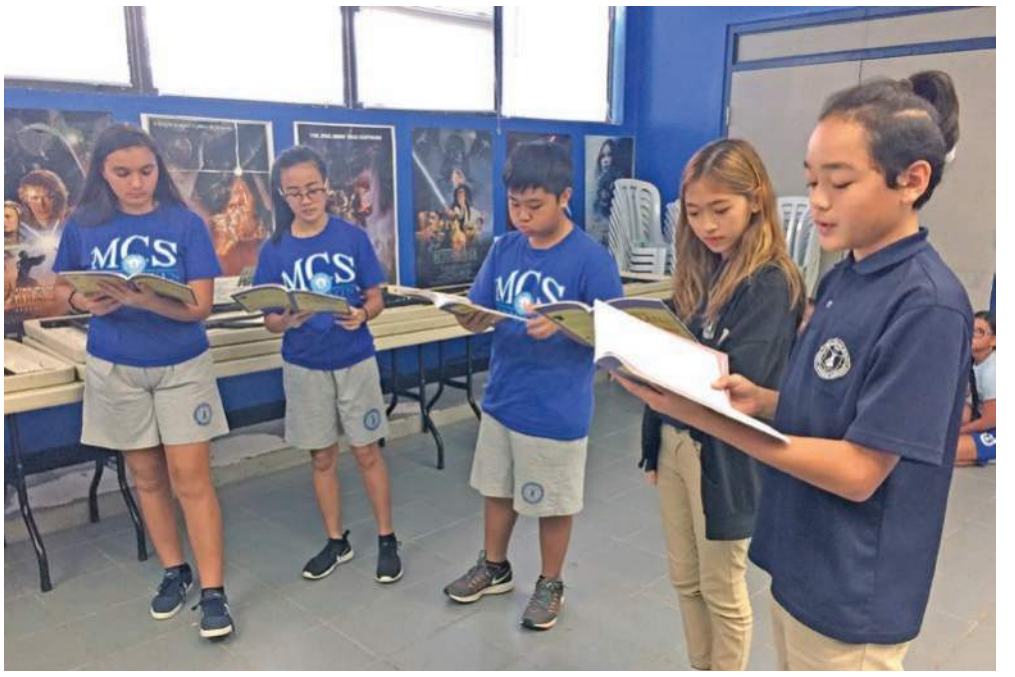
First-time director, Reica Ramirez, left, guides elementary students through *I'll Make a Man*, one of the songs used in auditions for the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club's upcoming production of Disney's Mulan Jr.



MCS

Middle school and freshman sing *I'll Make a Man* during auditions for the Mount Carmel School Theatre Club's upcoming production of Disney's Mulan Jr. From left, Brandee Hunter, Teresita Schweiger, William Año, Shaina Lee, and Sinahi Cepeda.

# MCS Theatre Club holds auditions for Mulan Jr.

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club kicked off its 2017-2018 season with auditions for its next musical, *Disney's Mulan Jr.*

Held this past week, the auditions attracted the largest group of aspiring dramatists ever in the school's history, with over 100 students from grades 1 through 9 auditioning.

"I am overwhelmed by the interest in the show," said first-time director Reica Ramirez.

Ramirez was the assistant director for the Theatre Club's last major production, *Disney's The Lion King Jr.*, which was a huge hit last year with over 1,000 audience members in attendance for two sold-out shows. Aware of that show's success, Ramirez said, "I didn't think we could top that, but this [audition turnout] just proves that more and more people want to be a part of our shows!"

Based on Disney's Oscar-nominated film and the story, *Fa Mulan* by Robert D. San Souci, *Disney's Mulan Jr.* tells the story of Mulan as she saves her elderly father from fighting for the emperor by disguising herself as a male soldier to fight in his place.

With her dragon sidekick, Mushu, and a motley band of misfit soldiers, Mulan discovers herself as she grows as a soldier and a heroine along the way. Since the original film's release in 1998, *Mulan* has been a favorite of kids and adults alike who appreciate the story's message of empowerment and courage.

When asked why she agreed to take the lead as director for this show, Ramirez said, "Mulan's one of my favorite Disney characters, and one of the very few characters that emphasizes strength from within."

"Since this is a junior show, I hope it inspires these young actors to find their strength, because it inspires me to find my own strength," she added.

*Disney's Mulan Jr.* will be the Theatre Club's 46th production since the club was started in 1996.

Over the years, the club has featured a wide variety of productions, including classics by William Shakespeare, a number of Disney musicals, several social issue plays, and numerous short and feature-length films. The club's most recent production, the short film, *We Drank Our Tears: Francisco Babauta's Story*, will be featured as an award finalist in the Guam International Film Festival later this month.

*Disney's Mulan Jr.* will be performed on Dec. 1 and 2. The show features music and lyrics by David Zippel, Jeanine Tesori, Stephen Schwartz, Matthew Wilder, and Alexa Junge. Music for the show was adapted and arranged, with additional music and lyrics provided, by Bryan Louiselle. The show's book was adapted and additional lyrics provided by Patricia Cotter. The Mount Carmel School Theatre Club production of *Disney's Mulan Jr.* will be presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com). ***(PR)***

**Ralph DLG. Torres**
*Governor*

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**Victor B. Hocog**
*Lt. Governor*

On behalf of the Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog and the 2017 CNMI Labor Day Committee, we would like to express our sincerest appreciation to all our sponsors for making this year's labor day celebration a successful event.

The overwhelming assistance, be it through monetary or in-kind donations, was a big help in allowing our Committee to plan, coordinate, facilitate, and recognize the hardworking CNMI government workforce.

***Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Ghillisow!***

From L-R: Jazmin Lizama Treasurer, Parker Yobei Entertainment Committee, Piding B. Sablan Stage Committee, Sebastian DLGuerrero Games Committee, Eli Cabrera Chairman, Carmen Ann B. Sablan Secretary, Jack R. Sablan Entertainment Committee, Bobbie T. Sablan Stage Committee, Mark O. Rabauliman Vice Chairman, and Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro SAA. Not in photo: Peter Tomokane Games Committee and Patrick "Chynaman" Arriola Emcee

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**NMTI TRAINING**
The Northern Marianas Trades Institute and IT&E have partnered up to provide an Electronic Systems Technicians (combo technicians) training, scheduled to start on Monday, Sept. 18. Here, NMTI and IT&E personnel pose with some of the future trainees. Second line, third from the left, IT&E director for Human Resources Shirley M. Dotts; Daphne Leon Guerrero, IT&E development officer; Velma Palacios, IT&E director of network, Rose Soledad, IT&E general manager–CNMI, regional controller.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Kilili: CPA to get $2.6M in federal funds for Tinian, Saipan airports

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday that the Commonwealth Ports Authority is receiving federal funding of $2,641,956 for airport improvements on Tinian and Saipan. Both the $1,951,956 grant for Tinian and the $690,000 grant for Saipan will be used to improve firefighting and rescue capabilities.

"As a tourism-based economy, the Marianas must have first-class airports that visitors can rely on for comfort and safety," Sablan said. "Today's investment of federal funds is one way to ensure that tourists coming to our islands are well-protected in the event of any accident at the Tinian or Saipan airports."

The U.S. House of Representatives was expected yesterday to begin considering a consolidated appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018 that includes the Federal Aviation Administration, which is responsible for disbursing these airport grants.

The almost $2 million award for Tinian will fund the construction phase of improvements to the existing aircraft rescue and firefighting building at the airport. One goal is to improve the ARFF vehicle water refill system so that the Tinian airport meets federal safety standards.

At the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport, the grant of $690,000 will pay for a new aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle, also, to meet safety requirements set out by the federal government. ***(PR)***

# NAVFAC Pacific awards contract for construction on Wake Island

**JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM**—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded yesterday a $12.4-million firm-fixed price contract to Black Construction Corp. of Harmon, Guam for the construction of an insulated, pre-engineered, single-story, metal building on Wake Island.

The work to be performed provides for the construction of supporting foundation and procurement and installation of an insulated, pre-engineered, single-story, metal building to serve the Missile Defense Agency on Wake Island. Supporting facilities include site work, an aggregate access road, paving and walkways, information and communication infrastructure, connections to support backup power and antiterrorism/force protection. The facility will provide work space for approximately 60 deployed personnel during Missile Defense Agency test events.

Work will be performed on Wake Island and is expected to be completed by January 2019. The contract was competitively procured via the Federal Business Opportunities website with five proposals received. ***(PR)***

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

This is to extend a happy 80th birthday shoutout to "Goro Rai." We love you! Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HARDT EYE CLINIC

DR. DONALD C. HARDT, SR.
1931-1989

*Cared for the eyes of Paradise, California for 30 years.*

*We'd like to pay tribute to our Dad who would be celebrating his birthday this month if he was still with us. We are proud to have followed in his footsteps and strive to continue his tradition for superior, personalized care for all patients.*

**235-2030**

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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## EDITORIAL

# When is human rights hero Aung San Suu Kyi going to act like one?

The Rohingya Muslim minority of Myanmar has long suffered discrimination, persecution and violence. But as a new horrific wave of brutality has swept over Rakhine state, where most of the country's Rohingya live in poverty, the question that has been asked over and over must now be shouted: When will Aung San Suu Kyi—the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, icon of democracy and de facto leader of the country—stand up for the democratic rights of this persecuted group?

The latest violence began with an Aug. 25 attack by Rohingya insurgents on 30 police posts and an army base that left 12 security officers and 77 insurgents dead, according to the Myanmar government. The government has responded to the attack with a sweeping scorched-earth campaign, killing hundreds of Rohingya civilians and burning their villages. This time, the violence has triggered an exodus of more than 120,000 desperate people fleeing on foot through mud and over hilly terrain, mostly to neighboring Bangladesh, where conditions are grim if not quite as dangerous. The million or so who remain face an increasing risk of food shortages and additional violence, according to Amnesty International.

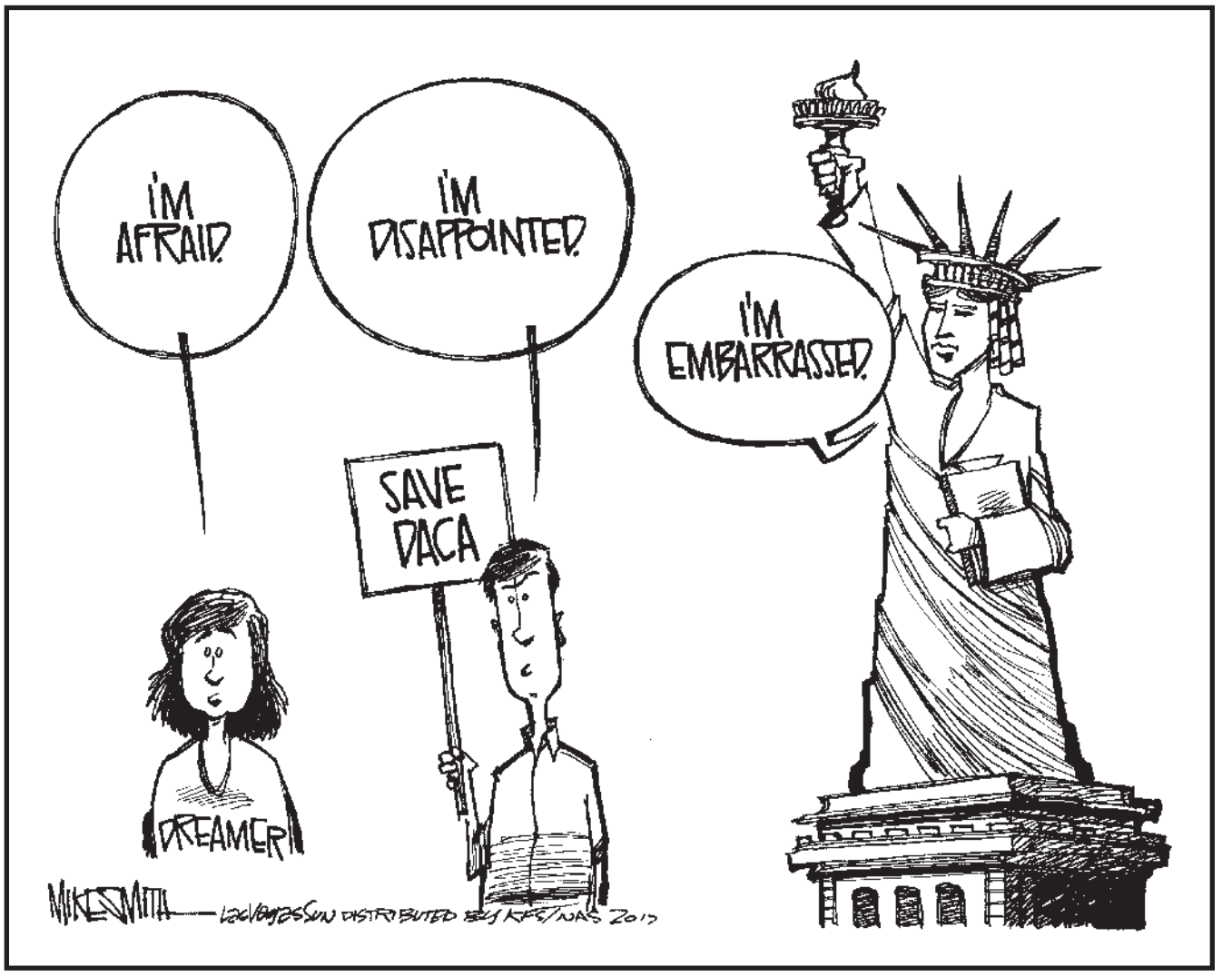
The stateless Rohingya are seen by the Buddhist majority and the government of Myanmar, also known as Burma, as little more than trespassers in the country. They have been denied citizenship, access to health care and education and other rights. Tens of thousands have been driven from their homes by violence over the years and have been consigned to squalid camps. Most are denied the right to work and other benefits of citizenship. In recent months, aid agencies say they have been blocked from entering Rakhine state by the Myanmar government.

Regardless of what one thinks of the insurgency, surely this much is clear: It's unconscionable for a military to respond to attacks by killing civilians and obliterating whole villages. And it's Suu Kyi's responsibility to speak out.

Around the world, Suu Kyi is revered as an advocate for human rights. She is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Yet, she has been mostly silent on the plight of the Rohingya, refusing even to call them by that name (as the Myanmar government doesn't recognize that as their official name). Her only concession to the fact that this is a serious problem was the establishment of a commission to look into the issues in Rakhine state. That commission delivered its report just two days before the violence broke out last month. Led by former United Nations Secretary- General Kofi Annan, the commission urged the government of Myanmar to recognize the rights of the Rohingya and warned that not doing so might only increase violence and radicalization in the state.

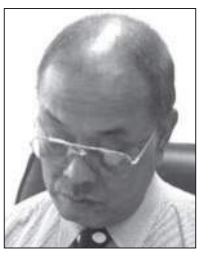
This is a time when Suu Kyi needs to rediscover her roots as a moral leader, to condemn massive, indiscriminate violence against the Rohingya and to work to make them citizens of Myanmar.

(c)2017 Los Angeles Times




# Sea of Discontent

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the* Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

The ill wind of unbridled change and the accompanying deteriorating effects in the quality of life on the islands has become an issue of serious discontent among our people in the villages. The simple folks know something's not right, an intuitive sentiment that merits sober discussion, if only to put things in perspective.

What's known as "temperamental" growth may have generated minimal revenues touted as economic improvement and as a result it gave a 42-percent salary increase across the board. But how do you mirror this as factually truthful when some 13,000-plus employees are earning poverty level income and below?

In other words, the simple folks are supposed to be recipients of such improvement but at day's end, it isn't found in the family purse beyond the pages of the newspaper. It's simple: break down the so-called "economic improvement" to see whether it has realistically improved the buying power of villagers.

While temperamental growth may help politicos fan the fire of a highly superficial economy, it's good to retreat to see if such suspect tidings have reached families throughout the CNMI. It's an issue that deals with family wellbeing so far removed from spouts of growth that is grandly missing. It hasn't improved the buying power of families for basic needs. Did you get that, pal?

Have we finally settled land compensation? Isn't this a tale of fiscal inadequacy?

There emerges the "Sea of Discontent" that has inundated the islands with the fatal drowning water of hardship in every corner. It's one difficult path to navigate when towering waves of dissatisfaction head to shore. At day's end I quiz: Is disorientation the apparent hallmark of our future?

**Assessment:** Former chief justice Jose Dela Cruz shared his view of the journey of the CNMI over the last 40 years. It isn't very encouraging; a view I fully share for obvious reasons. We've allowed paradise to head down the path of self-destruction. Must slam the brakes!

Foremost is the self-inflicted election and appointment of people who aren't necessarily qualified for the posts they now occupy. I also sense a grand scheme of nepotism all over government departments and agencies. I should be able to secure the names and publish it in the near term.

How sad too the shift in representation from folks who live in villages to those who wine and dine around Garapan nightly. It's a new political fad where business friends come first over the poor folks who elected you into office. We'll get to your names for publication soon.

Like former chief justice Jose Dela Cruz asserted, one would have to be blind not to see the elitist politics of filthy local politicians. Yes, it is understood the mad scramble to ignore your people in favor of serving as lapdogs of business associates.

Humiliating how quickly you abandon your commitment to improve the livelihood of the people you represent. Representation has morphed into a lame query, "How far do you want me to jump, sir?"

I also share his assertion that the quality of leadership has gone south. With skills limited to the wherewithal of a redundant receptionist, how is the elected and appointed elite supposed to understand the huge shift to policymaking requiring serious credentials?

**Issues:** The NMI Constitution limits the use of Mañagaha Island for cultural and recreational purposes. But it has been leased to tour companies for profit. Sure, it is making money but where in specific constitutional provision did it say it could be leased?

A lot of issues have been rammed down our throats even in open violation of constitutional dictates. Isn't it time we pull this mess up and begin questioning decisions made, including the lease of Mañagaha when its use is limited to cultural and recreational purposes? Or am I reading Article XIV, Section 2 wrong?

**Revisionist:** Dr. Laura M. Torres Souder, a history professor at the University of Guam, challenged participants recently to write history that is based on the indigenous experience. It's a pertinent suggestion that we must embrace with the conviction that we tell our stories ourselves.

If history is an impression of the writer, what grand opportunity it is to support the timely recommendation to revise misgivings how foreign writers have inflicted injustice to our cultural traditions. To illustrate a point, an islander professor of history addressed how European writers have depicted the *hula* dance for purposes of luring visitors to Hawaii. No one ever explained the spiritual aspect of *hula*.

*See SEA on Page 15*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# The medium is the mindset

**By ED STEPHENS**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.*

Every so often, just to reassure myself that planet Earth is still in business, I take a look at the world's news. I've noticed that technology has gone from being portrayed as the world's savior to being viewed with a more jaundiced eye. There's been a slew of articles, with more arriving all the time, speculating about the dark consequences of artificial intelligence, robots, and potentially job-stealing gizmos such as self-driving trucks.

If there are controversies brewing over this stuff, I'm sure not a part of them. I view technology as just another big factor, like the weather, that I have no control over. Instead of yelling at the wind, I just quietly trim my sails and keep my hand on the helm.

Still, just like the weather, technology can be an interesting thing to watch.

Maybe when a form of technology sounds vague it doesn't have a lot of appeal, but when it actually materializes as a shiny new thing the demand can be insatiable. Of course, not everything that hits the market is a success, but that doesn't erase the overall trend.

Before the selfie society came along, if you described "social media" to people as an abstract concept they would have nodded politely and started glancing at the exit.

Nowadays, they can't glance at anything: Their eyeballs are glued to their smartphones. If you've eaten a diet of clickbait for a dozen years the only direction you're going is where technology pulls you.

When this whole Web thing got big there was talk of a "digital divide" that separated the haves from the have-nots when it came to Web access. Saipan's Joeten-Kiyu Public Library did an admirable job teaching people how to use the Web; you could just drop by the computer area and a friendly guy would tutor you.

Nowadays, 20 years later, I sense another digital divide. This time it's between those who have embraced the digital realm as their primary means of conceptualizing the world, and those who haven't.

Technical know-how is not the key distinction here. For example, I know a number of computer programmers who maintain old-school ways in their non-working lives, and, in fact, I can think of several who don't even let their kids use smartphones.

On the other hand, because modern tech is so easy to use, anyone, no matter how non-technically inclined, can be totally immersed in the electronic world.

This digital divide might be invisible, you can't draw it on a map, but it seems to cleave through a lot of realms of modern life, including social circles and marriages.

An attorney recently told me that when one spouse is engaged in the e-life and the other isn't, there's probably a divorce in the future.

Managers in the retail and hotel industries have been telling me that customer service skills can be difficult to find in a workforce accustomed to keyboard-to-keyboard communications instead of the face-to-face kind. I'll acknowledge that point, but I'll also note that long before the smartphone came along, people with good customer service skills were hard to find.

Meanwhile, there are some differences in etiquette that crop up with modern technology. For instance, I'm apt to cringe a bit whenever somebody jams their phone between my face and my dinner plate in order to show me something. There's got to be a better way.

Hey, here's one: Maybe we could invent electronic screens that glue to people's foreheads so they can display things to other people. If they don't have anything to display at any particular time they'll be paid for the ads that are shown. We could all be human billboards that are advertising to all the other human billboards. Better yet, I'd get rich for starting the concept.

That's such a great idea that I just submitted it to the comptroller of my funds. Unfortunately, she rejected it, told me to quit reading the news, and reminded me that it's time to do the dishes.

Yes, dear, I'm on my way.

I guess that winds up my foray into global events, at least this time around. Technology is, alas, destined to remain a force entirely outside of my influence. So I'll just adjust my sails again while keeping a steady hand on the dish towel.

# Protect our oceans from the ground in Guam and the CNMI

**By CARLOTTA LEON GUERRERO**
HTTP://WWW.SOUTHERNFRIEDSCIENCE.COM

In April 2017, President Donald Trump ordered Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to examine 27 protected areas established by Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama using the 1906 Antiquities Act. Included in the list were four marine monuments in the Pacific Ocean, the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument in Hawaii, Mariana Trench Marine National Monument in the Mariana Islands, Rose Atoll Marine National Monument in American Samoa, and the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (sometimes referred to as Pacific Remote Island Areas or PRIA), which is made up several isolated islands and atolls under American control. This should have all of us on Guam and in the Pacific concerned, because we are the people who will have to live with the outcome.

During a two-month public comment period, 2.7 million Americans submitted testimony**.** An analysis of a random sampling of the comments found that 99 percent were in support of maintaining protections for the marine monuments**.**

Secretary Zinke submitted his draft report to the White House in August, the details of which are being withheld from public scrutiny. A press release timed with the submission of the report stated that no monuments would be overturned, but media stories claim the report contains recommendations that as many as six of the protected areas will have their borders reduced. There is no word from the White House on when the report will be released to the public, or when and if the President will act on Zinke's recommendations**.**

While there has been no public indication on what the White House will do, Zinke's statement in the press release is worrisome. "No President should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object," Zinke said in the statement. "The recommendations I sent to the president on national monuments will maintain federal ownership of all federal land and protect the land under federal environmental regulations, and also provide a much needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic development, traditional uses, and recreation."

The conservation community is concerned that Trump will attempt to overturn the protections of the marine monuments, while leaving the borders intact. The existing marine monuments already allow some level of recreational, subsistence, and cultural traditional fishing, and there are fears that "economic development" is a reference to industrial commercial fishing like the longline fishing vessels based in Honolulu that have been found to have "slave-like conditions."

Friends of the Mariana Trench Monument chair Ignacio V. Cabrera, an indigenous fisherman from Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, recently wrote, "While it's great that President Trump isn't likely to overturn our Mariana Trench Monument, opening the area for any kind of extraction, especially industrial scale commercial fishing, is equally as bad."

There is additional concern that the entire marine monument review has everything to do with opening up protected American waters to fishing so that they can be sold off to foreign businesses.

Recently approved Fisheries Management Plans for the Northern Mariana Islands**,** Guam**,** and the Pacific Remote Islands were published in the *Federal Register* in August 2017. The FMPs would allow the federal government to enter into agreements to sell access to American waters to foreign fishing vessels.

The *Federal Register* notices for Northern Mariana Islands and Guam read, "Section 204(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorizes the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce, and in consultation with the Council, to negotiate and enter into a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement. A PIAFA would allow foreign fishing within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone adjacent to American Samoa, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands." The *Federal Register* for the Pacific Remote Islands extends the possible fishing areas to Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Island, Wake Island, and Palmyra Atoll.

There is a long history of conflict between industrial commercial fisheries and local fishermen in the American Pacific. The 50nm zone around the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and the main Hawaiian Islands and Guam were closed to longline fishing in 1991 and 1992**,** respectively, because of the destructive nature of longline fishing and the effect this was having on the catches of local fishermen. Fisheries managers have known for 25 years that longline fishing damages fragile ecosystems. Opening up these protected areas to industrial fishing would set conservation efforts back nearly three decades.

As another example, the 50nm zone around American Samoa was closed to longline fishing in 2002. This decision was made for similar reasons to the previous closures in Hawaii and Guam, to allow space for the traditional fleet of "alia" vessels to fish without competition from the much larger industrial scale vessels. In 2016, at the recommendation of the controversial Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, the federal government reduced the exclusion zone to 12 miles. American Samoa sued the federal government saying the move violated their customary practices—and won**.** By the way, it is worth pointing out the WESPAC is also the driving force behind the effort to open the marine monuments**.**

The majority of the American citizens living in the U.S. Pacific territories do not want to compete with industrial fishing that mostly export fish overseas; they want to see fish remaining in their waters for their benefit and use. The move to open the marine monuments to commercial fishing and the drive to sell American waters to foreign businesses is something that will benefit a few people to the detriment of everyone else.

*Carlotta Leon Guerrero is a former Member of the 23rd, 24th, and 25th Guam Senate. She was also a two-term president of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures and previously worked as a radio and television journalist in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.*

## SEA

*From Page 14*

To ignore direct role revising historical misperception is to acquiesce allowing dispossession to sink even further beyond recognition. Haunani Kay Trask, professor of Hawaiian Studies, fittingly related, "To be Hawaiian, or Hawaiian at heart," is not a cultural construction, not an ethical choice; rather, it is a matter of genealogy that 200 years of colonization (in this case, Americanization) has failed to eradicate.

Here at home, we've read about our culture in history books penned by a drunken sailor aboard Magellan's ship. With a glass of whiskey at sunset at the bow he looked inland and wrote of islanders' savagery running naked, among others. We have the word "clothes" in Chamorro and though "thoo" (loincloth it may be) our ancestors weren't naked. He never realistically saw the issue through our prism beyond embellishing his misperception. We're victims of his embellishment!

**Refalawasch family picnic:** The Refalawasch Association would hold a family picnic this Sunday at the Minachom Atdau pavilion from 9am to 3pm, according to its president, Ambrosio Ogumoro. It's an opportunity to revive real Refalawasch fellowship and unity among Carolinians here. The occasion would feature a keynote speaker followed by lunch and entertainment for young and old. If you have time make it a point to join the group.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

**TODAY**
Cloudy with occasional showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.
▲89° ▼79°

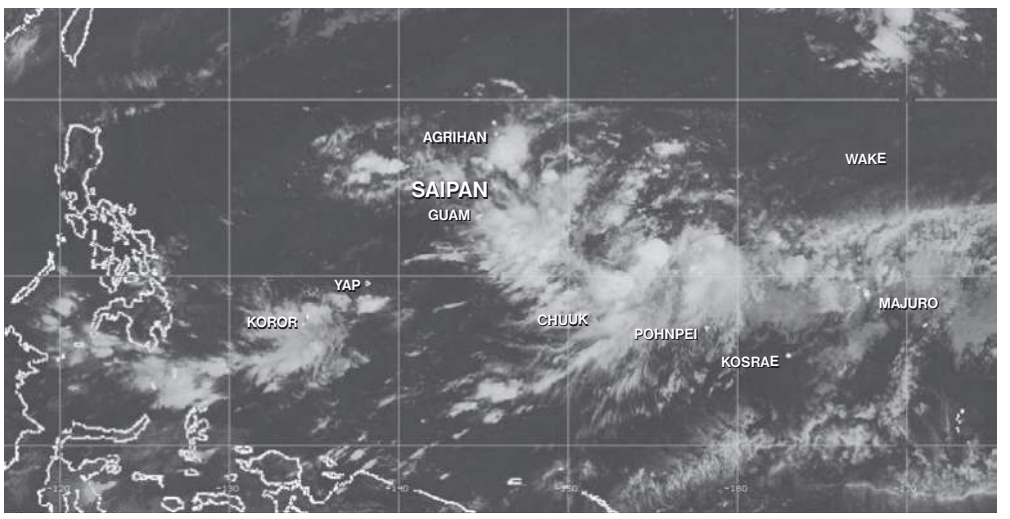
**SATURDAY**
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°

**SUNDAY**
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°

**MONDAY**
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°

**TUESDAY**
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 6:35 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Upper-level troughing will continue to create isolated thunderstorms in the area through at least Sunday. Meanwhile, surface troughing will come into phase with it Friday through Saturday, which will create greatly enhanced shower activity. Upgraded the central portion of this shower period from scattered to occasional as there was good model-model and run-run consistency, plus there are features currently out there. Also raised the sky to cloudy and refreshed the winds and waves. Little change in philosophy though, the main idea is the same with a rainy first half of the weekend. Seas are already lowered from earlier, however they are expected to continue falling. They could reach 1 to 3 feet on Sunday. The key takeaway is that marine conditions should be benign through the first half of next week. Boaters enjoy!

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 88° / 79° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 88° / 77° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 88° / 77° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 86° / 81° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Rain | 55° / 46° |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 70° |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 88° / 81° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 75° |
| London | Rain | 63° / 50° |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 80° / 66° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 91° / 79° |
| Melbourne | Mostly Cloudy | 55° / 37° |
| Miami | Thunderstorms | 87° / 82° |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | 75° / 58° |
| Osaka | Sunny | 88° / 68° |
| Paris | Showers | 68° / 54° |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 70° |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 81° / 63° |
| Salem | Sunny | 84° / 61° |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 66° / 57° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 66° |
| Tokyo | Sunny | 82° / 66° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 76° / 56° |

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 2:59 AM | LOW TIDE | 0.55 |
| 8:37 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.94 |
| 3:12 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.17 |
| 9:18 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.96 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:05 AM | 6:24 PM |
| Saturday | 6:05 AM | 6:23 PM |
| Sunday | 6:05 AM | 6:22 PM |
| Monday | 6:05 AM | 6:21 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:05 AM | 6:21 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | - | 7:31 AM | 7:57 PM |
| Saturday | - | 8:26 AM | 8:42 PM |
| Sunday | - | 9:22 AM | 9:28 PM |
| Monday | - | 10:20 AM | 10:17 PM |
| Tuesday | - | 11:18 AM | 11:10 PM |

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6394 | 4:15am | 5:05am | Daily |
| UA6392 | 8:40am | 9:30am | Daily |
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota |
| UA6390 | 2:20pm | 3:10pm | 2, 3, 6 |
| UA6398 | 6:05pm | 6:55pm | Daily |
| UA6396 | 9:50pm | 10:40pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 2:05pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6391 | 2:35pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 1:35am | 5:20am | 2, 3, 4 |
| OZ626 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| TW308 | 2:35am | 6:20am | 6, 7 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| ZE582 | 3:40am | 7:00am | Daily |
| 7C3403 | 4:45am | 8:30am | Daily |
| LJ652 | 4:45am | 8:35am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3401 | 4:00pm | 7:45pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:10am | 6:10am | 1, 7 |
| 7C3451 | 4:00am | 7:05am | 4, 5 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8648 | 5:20am | 8:00am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD396 | 7:00am | 10:25am | 1 |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 8:15pm | 4 |

**SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:35am | 3, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL297 | 4:15pm | 7:05pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/701 | 2:20am | 11:05am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/701 | 2:50am | 11:05am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA6394/191 | 4:15am | 8:55am | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 9:00am | 1, 2, 4, 6via GUM |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 9:15am | 3, 5, 7 via GUM |
| UA6391/183 | 1:30pm | 8:50pm | 5 via Rota-GUM |
| UA6391/183 | 1:30pm | 9:10pm | 1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM |
| UA6391/193 | 1:30pm | 10:40pm | 5 via Rota-GUM-ROR |
| UA6390/183 | 2:20pm | 8:50pm | 2 via GUM |
| UA6390/183 | 2:20pm | 9:10pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| UA6390/193 | 2:20pm | 10:40pm | 2 via GUM-ROR |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX077 | 2:00am | 5:00am | 1, 4 |
| OZ626/721 | 2:20am | 11:40am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UO43 | 4:40am | 8:10am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| UA6391/159 | 1:30pm | 9:50pm | 1, 5 via Rota-GUM |
| UA6390/159 | 2:20pm | 9:50pm | 3, 6 via GUM |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6393 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| UA6395 | 7:15am | 8:05am | Daily |
| UA6391 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| UA6390 | 12:10pm | 1:50pm | 2, 3, 6 via Rota |
| UA6397 | 4:45pm | 5:35pm | Daily |
| UA6399 | 8:30pm | 9:20pm | Daily |

**GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6390 | 12:10pm | 12:45pm | 2, 3, 6 |

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6390 | 1:15pm | 1:50pm | 2, 3, 6 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3402 | 9:30am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| TW307 | 7:05pm | 12:35am+1 | 1, 2, 3 |
| OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| TW307 | 8:05pm | 1:35am+1 | 5, 6 |
| OZ625 | 8:15pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| ZE581 | 9:00pm | 2:40am+1 | Daily |
| LJ651 | 10:00pm | 3:30am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 4 |
| 7C3452 | 9:05pm | 2:10am+1 | 3, 6, 7 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8647 | 10:20pm | 4:30am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |

**HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD395 | 8:10am | 3:30pm | 4 |
| JD395 | 10:05pm | 5:30am+1 | 7 |

**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU763 | 4:25pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL298 | 10:20am | 3:00pm | Daily |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA190/6397 | 9:55am | 5:35pm | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ702/625 | 12:15pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/625 | 12:15pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| UA192/6395 | 9:45pm | 8:05am+1 | 2, 5 via ROR-GUM |
| UA184/6395 | 10:25pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| PR110/UA6395 | 10:55pm | 8:05am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| UA184/6395 | 11:30pm | 8:05am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ722/625 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/625 | 1:10pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| HX076 | 5:20pm | 12:30am+1 | 3, 7 |
| UO42 | 6:10pm | 1:00am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA116/6395 | 10:45pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 1206 | 12:00PM | 12:15PM | Daily |
| 1207 | 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 1208 | 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 1211 | 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 1212 | 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 2103 | 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 2104 | 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 2105 | 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 2106 | 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 2107 | 12:30PM | 12:45PM | Daily |
| 2108 | 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2109 | 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 2110 | 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 2111 | 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 2112 | 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 2113 | 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

# Customs personnel to refine training

With the World Trade Organization's landmark Trade Facilitation Agreement, which came into force last month, the CNMI Division of Customs will soon undergo training of the modernization and harmonization of export and import procedures through the Oceania Customs Organization.

The OCO is also expected to discuss pertinent information regarding the Revised Kyoto Convention and customs enforcement practices.

According to Customs director Jose Mafnas, the national workshop on the Revised Kyoto Convention will take place from Sept. 11 to Sept. 15.

"The upcoming workshop will feature training sessions by the Oceania Customs Organization. The first time the OCO visited the CNMI, we focused on customs international standards and best practices, leading to greater economic prosperity and increased border security. This time our personnel will hone in on the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the [Revised Kyoto Convention], which are centered on capacity building and harmonization," Mafnas said.

The Revised Kyoto Convention is the main trade facilitation customs convention. It was developed by the World Customs Organization and entered into force in 2006 with focus on transparency, use of information technology, use of risk management and audit-based controls, and coordinated interventions with other border agencies, and trade partnerships.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson emphasized that customs training on local and international trade practices has proven to be successful.

"Since our partnership with the Oceania Customs Organization, our customs officers have been better equipped to perform their duties in relation to local and international law. The CNMI economy is influenced by the strength of our borders and customs control and again this training addresses a lot of customs matters, from border management and revenue collection, to transparency and efficiency," Larson said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres noted that that the Revised Kyoto Convention and the trade facilitation agreement look to ensure a harmonized system of customs practices which would continue to improve economic growth.

"We know that customs revenues have continued to increase and our borders are stronger, but the work does not end there. These trainings bring our officers up to international standards to address our very unique location and challenges. The OCO offers cross-border collaboration, which combines our resources and improves business and trade by tracking and monitoring goods that are imported and exported across borders. I commend the Division of Customs for their commitment to increasing their partnerships and knowledge base to address border security," Torres said.

The OCO helps administrations align with international customs standards and best practices. The CNMI is one of 24 members of the organization, which includes Palau, Guam, Kiribati, American Samoa, French Polynesia, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Fiji, Wallis and Futuna, Vanuatu, Nauru, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Australia, Norfolk Islands, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, and New Zealand. ***(PR)***


**ATTENTION. ATTENTION. ATTENTION**

**More Fruits and Vegetables Available**

**Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market, Inc.**
**is proud to announce the reinstatement of its**
**Tuesday market sales activity in Susupe**
**commencing on September 12, 2017**
**from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm.**

***The public is invited to patronize the hardworking Saipan farmers.***

**Booth space is available free of charge to any schools or civic organizations for their fundraising event.**

**Contact President Manny Borja at 588-0909 for more details.**

**JOB OPENINGS!!!**

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|---|---|---|---|
| Entertainment/Life Guard Supervisor | | Waiter | Waitress |
| **ENGINEERING** | | **FRONT OFFICE** | |
| Electrician | Groundskeeper | Guest Service Officer | |
| **HOUSE KEEPING** | | | |
| House Keeping Supervisor | | Room Attendant | |
| **CULINARY** | | | |
| Japanese Chef De Partie | Chinese Sous Chef | Cooks | Stewards |

Disclaimer: Must be able to legally work in the CNMI (Saipan) without needing a work visa. Send resumes to hr@mrisaipan.com or pick up an application at our office from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday. Visit us at http://www.kensingtonsaipan.com/en/

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*(*4 ADULT CUSTOMERS PAY FOR 3)*
**SUNDAY DINNER** - $60.00 ($50 FOR LOCAL)

# Business

## Trump's harsh message to immigrants could drag on economy

**WASHINGTON** (AP)— James Harrison, the owner of a Phoenix-based specialty construction firm, employs three workers protected by an Obama-era immigration program that the Trump administration took steps Tuesday to eliminate .

Should those workers—who were brought to the United States illegally as children—be deported, Harrison doubts he would find other workers to replace them anytime soon.

"These are some of my top guys," Harrison said. "They don't drink, they don't do drugs, they don't do anything but work."

His own grandfather, Harrison said, immigrated to the United States from England without any paperwork.

His on-the-ground viewpoint couldn't be more different from that of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who made the questionable assertion Tuesday that the Obama administration's measure "denied jobs to hundreds of thousands of Americans by allowing those same jobs to go to illegal aliens."

Nearly all economists and most business leaders reject Sessions' view. Ending the program, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, won't boost U.S. employment at a time when an aging workforce and a low jobless rate have left many employers struggling to find skilled workers. Eliminating the program might even cost jobs in the long run, they say.

The program allows immigrants who were brought to the United States illegally as children to stay in the United States, attend school and find jobs. Those who benefit are sometimes called "Dreamers," after early proposals in Congress that never passed. President Barack Obama implemented the program in 2012.

The administration said the measure will phase out over six months, giving Congress an opportunity to approve a replacement plan.

More broadly, economists warn that eliminating DACA, along with other steps the Trump administration has taken, such as banning travel from several Muslim nations and proposing cuts to legal immigration, could inflict long-term damage on the economy. The proposals could discourage potential immigrants, including those with advanced degrees and skills, from entering the United States. Some immigrants already in the U.S. might refrain from starting businesses, analysts say.

## Facebook: Accounts from Russia bought ads during US campaign

**WASHINGTON** (AP)— Hundreds of fake Facebook accounts, probably run from Russia, spent about $100,000 on ads aimed at stirring up divisive issues such as gun control and race relations during the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the social network said Wednesday.

Although the number of ads is relatively small, the disclosure provides a more detailed peek into what investigators believe was a targeted effort by Russians to influence U.S. politics during the campaign, this time through social media.

The 470 accounts appeared to come from a notorious "troll farm," a St. Petersburg-based organization known for promoting pro-Russian government positions via fake accounts, according to two people familiar with the investigation. The people were granted anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss details of the investigation.

In all, the accounts purchased some 3,000 ads between June 2015 and May 2017. While they ads didn't specifically reference the election, a candidate or voting, they nevertheless allowed "divisive messages" to be amplified via the social media platform, the company's chief security officer, Alex Stamos, said in a statement.

Facebook has turned over its findings to federal authorities investigating Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election. Robert Mueller, the special counsel, is charged with overseeing Russian meddling in the U.S. election and any potential coordination with associates of President Donald Trump.

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said that Facebook briefed the panel's staff on Wednesday, but he still wants to know more.

"I have a lot more questions for Facebook, and I've got a lot of questions for Twitter," Warner said, noting that "we've got Twitter coming in." He did not say when a meeting with representatives from Twitter might occur other than "soon."

A spokeswoman for Twitter declined comment Wednesday evening.

Warner said he also wants to know more about the content of the ads pushed out by the Russian-based Internet Research Agency and whether they targeted specific voters or locations in the U.S.


**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**CUC-RFP-17-037**

**CONSULTANCY SERVICES - REPLACEMENT OF 1 ENGINE SYSTEM - SAIPAN**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Consultancy Services including procurement support, project management, engineering and design services of the Replacement of 1 Engine System (No. 8 –10 to13 MW, capacity) at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Consultant shall have a minimum of ten (10) years of verifiable experience and a track record of designing, modification and installation of diesel fuel or dual fuel power plants, among other attributes noted in the RFP documents.

*The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission CPUC.*

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **September 19, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal and hence the attendance of the pre-proposal meeting and site visit is mandatory.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies**, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-17-037– Consultancy Services - Replacement of 1 Engine System"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 20, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email william.gilmore@cugov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**
Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.**
Purchasing Administrator



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
Office of the Executive Director

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**CUC-IFB-17-027**

**ROOF REPLACEMENT AT DRUM STORAGE AREA**
**POWER PLANT NO. 1 SAIPAN**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of roofing material at the Drum Storage Berm, Power Plant 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the removal of corroded roofing and its replacement with new material. Electrical work for installation of lighting and power outlets at the berm is also requested for this task.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-027 Roof Replacement Drum Storage Area Power Plant No. 1 Saipan",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 29, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to conduct business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 14, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Max Simian, CUC Technical Manager for Oil – via email max.simian@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY CAMACHO**
**Executive Director**

**MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.**
**Purchasing Administrator**

CNMI

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# Message of Appreciation

## To all our partners

We are sincerely thankful for your help and donations in making WIC's 10th Year Anniversary and in celebration of World Breastfeeding Week's 5K Walk and Mini Carnival held on August 12, 2017 a huge success. With your help and partnership, we are able to sustain breastfeeding together as a community. Once again, Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase , Olomwaay, and Salamat Po.

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PHI Pharmacy
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# Nation

## Trump overrules GOP with deal on spending, debt, Harvey aid

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump briskly overruled congressional Republicans and his own treasury secretary Wednesday to cut a deal with Democrats to keep the government operating and raise America's debt limit. The immediate goal was ensuring money for hurricane relief, but in the process the president brazenly rolled his own party's leaders.

In deal-making mode, Trump sided with the Democratic leaders—"Chuck and Nancy," as he amiably referred later to Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi—as they pushed for the three-month deal, brushing aside the urgings of GOP leaders and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin for a much longer extension to the debt limit. Republicans want that longer allowance to avoid having to take another vote on the politically toxic issue before the 2018 congressional elections.

The session painted a vivid portrait of discord at the highest ranks of the Republican Party. After an angry August that Trump spent lobbing attacks at fellow Republicans, specifically targeting Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell for the failure of health care legislation, the president wasted little time once Congress came back this week in demonstrating his disdain for the GOP House and Senate leaders charged with shepherding his agenda into law.

At first, in Wednesday's Oval Office meeting, the Republicans lobbied for an 18-month debt ceiling extension, then 12 months and then six, but Trump waved them off. As Mnuchin continued to press an economic argument in favor of a longer-term deal, Trump tired of it and cut him off mid-sentence.

At another point, the meeting totally lost focus when Ivanka Trump entered to raise an unrelated issue on child care tax credits. Details of the meeting were disclosed by several people briefed on the proceedings who spoke only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk publicly.

One photo taken through the window of the Oval Office showed an animated Schumer pointing his finger in Trump's face as the president smiles with his hands on his fellow New Yorker's arms.

After the meeting, Trump boarded a plane to North Dakota with Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp in an effort to garner bipartisan support for tax legislation that Republican leaders on Capitol Hill are crafting on a purely partisan basis. That continued the day of bizarre disconnects between the president and the leaders of his party.

Trump called Heitkamp to the stage at his Dakota event and praised her as a "good woman." She will be running for re-election against a Republican in November 2018.

Heitkamp later issued a statement saying she needs to know more about Trump's tax plan before offering her support.

Aboard Air Force One, Trump told reporters, "We had a very good meeting with Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer." He didn't mention Republicans McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, who also had been present. "We agreed to a three-month extension on debt ceiling, which they consider to be sacred, very important."

"I think the deal will be very good," Trump added.

Barely an hour earlier, Ryan had slammed the Democrats' demand for a three-month extension as "ridiculous and disgraceful." He issued no public statement on the final deal.

## 15 states, DC seek court relief over DACA, but will it work?

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Fifteen states and the District of Columbia sued the U.S. government Wednesday to block President Donald Trump's plan to end protection against deportation for young immigrants, saying it was motivated by prejudice against Mexicans.

Legal experts, however, say the evidence of bias is not strong in the case involving the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.

"It might be able to muck up the works, maybe push off the effective date of the repeal, but I don't see litigation being successful in the same way as the travel ban," Kari Hong, an immigration expert at Boston College Law School, said, referring to the lawsuit earlier this year that limited the Trump ban involving predominantly Muslim nations.

As indications of Trump's bias, the suit cited his previous statement referring to some Mexican immigrants as rapists and his decision to pardon former Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who was convicted of contempt for ignoring a federal court order to stop traffic patrols that targeted immigrants.

"Ending DACA, whose participants are mostly of Mexican origin, is a culmination of President's Trump's oft-stated commitments—whether personally held, stated to appease some portion of his constituency, or some combination thereof—to punish and disparage people with Mexican roots," the lawsuit filed in federal court in Brooklyn said.

In its fight against the travel ban, Hawaii argued that it was illegally motivated by religious discrimination against Muslims and used statements Trump made as a candidate to support that claim.

A federal judge agreed and blocked the ban, though the U.S. Supreme Court later allowed a version to move forward.

The attorneys general who brought the DACA lawsuit—all Democrats—represent states where the population of DACA participants ranges from hundreds to tens of thousands. Known as "dreamers," they were brought to the U.S. illegally as children or came with families who overstayed visas.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Tuesday the program will end in six months so Congress can have time to find a legislative solution for people in the program.

Opponents of the program called DACA an unconstitutional abuse of executive power.

Supporters of the DACA program disagreed.

New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman said Trump's plan is "cruel, shortsighted, inhumane" and driven by a personal bias against Mexicans and Latinos.


**DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES**
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
**OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATOR**
Chalan Piao, P.O. Box 501000 CK., Saipan MP 96950

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA) is soliciting request for proposals for FY 2018 Consolidated Block Grant (CBG) under the spending authority of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). Funds will be sub-granted to an agency/non-profit organization in the CNMI upon meeting the specific qualifications/provisions of the said funding through the 2018 CBG State Plan.

The purpose of the CBG funding is to make funding available to agency/non- profit organization for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low- income communities and the empowerment of low- income families to become fully self- sufficient. The special intent of this funding will be to fund projects that will provide services to the community who are considered economically disadvantaged.

All proposals must be submitted to the Division of Youth Services, Community Services Office no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, October 09, 2017***. A copy of the grant general requirements/conditions, sub- grantee responsibilities and other scope relating to the funding can be obtained at the DYS- Community Services Office in Chalan Piao, next to Bank of Guam (Joeten Building). You may also log into the DYS website at www.dys.gov.mp for the grant application form. A copy of the FY 2018 Consolidated Block Grant State Plan can be viewed at www.dcca.gov.mp or www.gov.mp.

For additional questions or inquiries, please contact the following:

Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator
(670) 664-2550
vsablan@dys.gov.mp

Rita M. Castro
DYS Grant Writer
(670) 664-2557
rcastro@dys.gov.mp

Jennifer O. Tanaka
Federal Program Coordinator IV
(670) 664- 2554
jtanaka@dys.gov.mp

Nina S. Nekaifes
Federal Program Coordinator III
(670) 664-2554
nnekaifes@dys.gov.mp

*This ad was paid for by the Consolidated Block Grant under The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services*



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
**Office of the Secretary of Public Works**
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**DPW/DPL-17-RFP-027**

**ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISIONS, I DENNI, SAIPAN**

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Public Lands (DPL) are soliciting sealed Proposals for Architectural & Engineering Services for the Proposed Homestead Subdivisions, I Denni, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with §70-30.3-305 of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after August 25, 2017 at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Lands Conference Room, 2nd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building on September 12, 2017. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Patricia Rasa, Director of Planning Division at Division of Public Lands, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time September 26, 2017.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. ***Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%***
2. ***Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%***
3. ***Project Approach – 35%***
4. ***Schedule of Completion – 15%***

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, §70-30.3-245.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "DPW/DPL-17-RFP-027". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, September 29, 2017. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, September 29, 2017, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 29, 2017 – AND must be received no later than October 10, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

# Asia

## US adds launchers to THAAD as dozens hurt in SKorea protests

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—Dozens of people were injured in clashes between South Korean protesters and police Thursday as the U.S. military added more launchers to the high-tech missile-defense system it installed in a southern town to better cope with North Korean threats.

Seoul has hardened its stance against Pyongyang after its torrent of weapons tests, the latest a detonation Sunday of what North Korea said was a thermonuclear weapon built for missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

The clashes came as South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minster Shinzo Abe met in eastern Russia and repeated their calls for stronger punishment of North Korea over its nuclear ambitions, including denying the country oil supplies. The demand contradicted the stance of their host, Russian President Vladimir Putin, who in an earlier meeting with Moon dismissed sanctions as a solution.

In the rural town of Seongju, thousands of police officers in riot gear swarmed some 400 protesters who since Wednesday night had been occupying a road leading to a former golf course where the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense System is installed.

The officers also broke the windows of several cars the protesters were using to block the road and towed the vehicles away. A fire department official in Seongju said 38 people, including six police officers, were injured, none seriously. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules.

Several U.S. military vehicles, including trucks carrying payloads covered in black sheets that appeared to be launchers, had been seen heading toward the site.

A THAAD battery normally consists of six launchers capable of firing up to 48 interceptor missiles, but only two launchers have been operational so far. South Korea's Defense Ministry couldn't immediately confirm when the four launchers added on Thursday will be operationally capable. Seongju residents and activists have worried over rumored health hazards and the possibility of being targeted in North Korean attacks.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Boat with Rohingya refugees capsizes, killing 5 as more flee

**KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh** (AP)—A trawler carrying Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in Myanmar capsized, killing at least five people, as the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, blamed a misinformation campaign for fueling a crisis the U.N. says has pushed some 146,000 refugees into Bangladesh. Suu Kyi's top security adviser also sought to counter the storm of international criticism over alleged army abuses against the Rohingya ethnic minority, asserting that security forces were acting with restraint in pursuing "terrorists." On the Bangladesh side of the border with Buddhist-majority Myanmar, residents of Shah Porir Dwip fishing village recovered five bodies from the Bay of Bengal on Wednesday, hours after the boat capsized around midnight, police official Yakub Ali said. It was not immediately clear where the boat began its journey, or if the passengers had been among some 450 detained by Bangladeshi border guards and ordered Tuesday to return to Myanmar.

### PH: 2 Indonesians escape from Abu Sayyaf captors

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Two Indonesians who escaped from Abu Sayyaf militants after 10 months of captivity were recovered by Philippine troops Thursday, officials said. Brig. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said soldiers intercepted the two men who were on board a vehicle in Indanan town in southern Sulu province. There was no mention of any injuries but they were brought to hospital for medical examination and will also undergo debriefing by the military. Boat crewmen Sarapuddin Koni and Sawal Maryam were abducted Nov. 19 in waters off Sabah, Malaysia.

### Vietnam seizes over 1 ton of ivory smuggled in from Africa

**HANOI, Vietnam** (AP)—Authorities have seized more than a ton of smuggled ivory at a Vietnamese port where some 6 tons were seized last year. Customs official Le Dinh Loi in Ho Chi Minh City said the ivory seized Wednesday in Cat Lai port had been packed with sawdust and layers of plasters and asphalt to hide it. He said Thursday the container held 1,356 kilograms (2,983 pounds) of ivory smuggled from Africa and was transiting through Vietnam to its destination in neighboring Cambodia. Vietnam bans hunting of its own dwindling elephant population but is one of the world's major transit points and consumers of ivory and rhino horn. Ivory is used as jewelry and home decoration.


**Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation**
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
**RFP-17-CHCC/WIC-25**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 19, 2017 TIME: 10:00AM

**"REPAINTING PROJECT, WOMEN, INFANTS, &CHILDREN (WIC), COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"**

**MANDATORY PRE-SUBMISSION ON-SITE ASSESSMENT**
A MANDATORY ON-SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA WILL BE HELD AT 9:00A.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017. ALL INTERESTED VENDORS MUST ATTEND.

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO**
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
INVITATION TO BID
**ITB NO.: ITB17-COTA/FTA-208**
SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF PHONE RECORDING SOFTWARE FOR UP TO SIX (6) LANDLINE PHONE UNITS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"**

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **AUGUST 25, 2017** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE 216 MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NARU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO**
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
INVITATION TO BID
**ITB17-TDLNR-207 – CIF TINIAN**
SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) UNITS ZERO-TURN RIDING MOWERS FOR TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, **LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN**, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS**
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

**/S/ GUILLERMO C. BORJA**
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD, TDLNR

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S



**NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE**
**Procurement & Property Management Office**
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**NMC IFB 17-012**
BUILDING REPAIR AND RENOVATION PROJECT

Northern Marianas College (NMC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for Roof Renovation for building D2, at As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Monday, August 28, 2017, between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**A mandatory pre-bid conference and site inspection** for interested persons, firms and corporation will be held on Friday, September 08, 2017 at 10:00am at NMC Procurement & Property Management Office, Conference Room on the 2nd floor, Bldg L.

**Bid Packages are due no later than 11:00 a.m., September 15, 2017** at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:
/s/Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Management Office



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax, (670) 234-9021 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor — Victor B. Hocog, Lt. Governor

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, September 14, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. at the NMC Room A1, Tatacho, Rota**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
i. Regular Board Meeting – June 2, 2017

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

III. **CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
a. Divisional Updates

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
a. 2016 Audited Financial Statements Update.
b. Garapan Annex Update
c. USDA RD Defaulted Loans Update
d. Land Exchange St. Jude Chapel, Rota

V. **NEW BUSINESS**
a. Loans for Review and Approval
b. Marianas Medical Referral Center Access Road
c. ZH's Request for Additional Credits
d. ARVH, ZH, GFE, IVP Return and Reallocation Requests
e. Personnel Matters

VI. **LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**

VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

VIII. **OTHER MATTERS**

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

*(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/
**IGNACIO L. PEREZ**
Chairman of the Board



**Board of Trustees**
**Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation**
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 5:30 p.m./ in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Office (new wing).

**AGENDA**

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes
A. Adoption of August 9, 2017 Executive Session Minutes
B. Adoption of August 17, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

IV. Public Comments

V. Reports
A. Management & Operations
B. Financial Statement
C. Budget
D. Malpractice Insurance
E. CMS & ECRI

VI. Old Business
A. BOT Budget

VII. New Business
A. Travel to Rota and Tinian
B. Credentialing Packet
C. Public Auditor Report & Status 3/16/17

VIII. Announcements

IX. Executive Session:
The board may vote to meet in Executive Session to consult with legal counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters

X. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 233-8756

# World

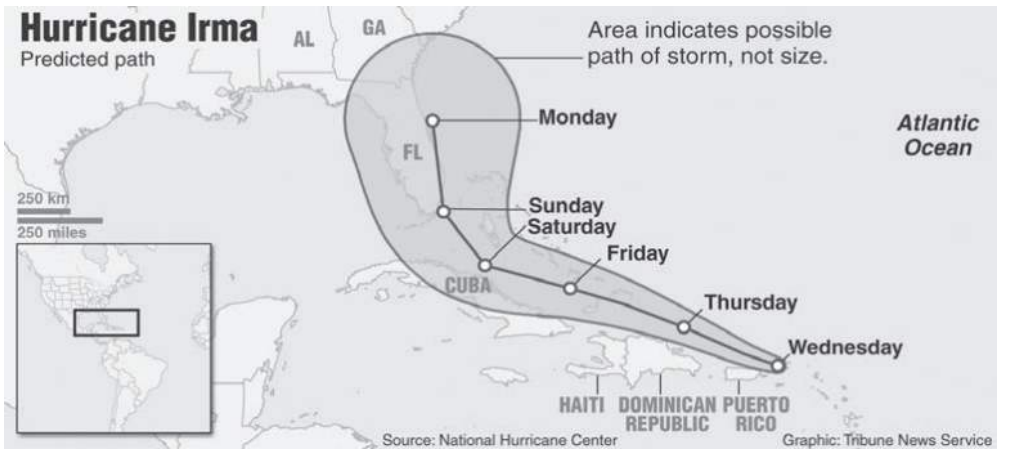
## Hurricane Irma blacks out Puerto Rico, heads for Hispaniola

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico** (AP)—Hurricane Irma blacked out much of Puerto Rico as the dangerous Category 5 storm raked the U.S. territory with heavy wind and rain while staying just out to sea, and it headed early Thursday toward the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

To the east, authorities struggled to get aid to small Caribbean islands devastated by the storm's record 185 mph (298 kph) winds earlier Wednesday, while people in Florida rushed to get ready for a possible direct hit on the Miami area.

Communications were difficult with areas hit by Irma, and information on damage trickled out.

Nearly every building on Barbuda was damaged when the hurricane's core crossed almost directly over the island early Wednesday and about 60 percent of its roughly 1,400 residents were left homeless, Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne told The Associated Press.




"It is just really a horrendous situation," Browne said after returning to Antigua from a plane trip to the neighboring island.

He said roads and telecommunications systems were wrecked and recovery would take months, if not years. A 2-year-old child was killed as a family tried to escape a damaged home during the storm, Browne told the AP.

On St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Laura Strickling spent 12 hours hunkered down with her husband and 1-year-old daughter in a boarded-up basement apartment with no power as the storm raged outside. They emerged to find the lush island in tatters. Many of their neighbors' homes were damaged and once-dense vegetation was largely gone.

"There are no leaves. It is crazy. One of the things we loved about St. Thomas is that it was so green. And it's gone," Strickling said. "It will take years for this community to get back on its feet."

Significant damage was also reported on St. Martin, an island split between French and Dutch control. Photos and video circulating on social media showed major damage to the airport in Philipsburg and the coastal village of Marigot heavily flooded. France sent emergency food and water there and to the French island of St. Bart's, where Irma ripped off roofs and knocked out electricity. Dutch marines who flew to St. Martin and two other Dutch island reported extensive damage but no deaths or injuries.

By late Wednesday, the center of the storm was about 85 miles northwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and moving to the west-northwest at 16 mph (26 kph).

## Catalonia officially sets independence vote for Oct. 1

**MADRID** (AP)—Voters in Spain's prosperous Catalonia region will be asked to choose in less than a month if they want to secede from Spain, the region's pro-independence ruling government announced Wednesday in a move that puts it in open defiance of central authorities in Madrid.

Regional President Carles Puigdemont signed a decree that officially calls for a "self-determination referendum of Catalonia" to be held on Oct. 1. His entire cabinet, which includes politicians from various pro-independence parties, also approved the document to dilute responsibility in case of prosecution.

The referendum clashes with the Spanish Constitution, which only gives national authorities the right to call such a vote. But Catalonia's pro-independence lawmakers approved a bill earlier Wednesday that is meant to provide a legal justification for the independence vote.

"The concept of a state and patriotic unities that go beyond the rights of citizens don't have a place in today's Europe," Puigdemont said. "Catalonia belongs to this world that looks forward, and that's why it will decide its own future on the 1st of October."

A central government official told The Associated Press that Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has urged the country's top legal consultative body to review the bill. The official said Madrid is expected to challenge the law in the country's Constitutional Court on Thursday. The source asked not to be named in line with internal protocols.

## Pope kicks off visit to Colombia aimed at building bridges

**BOGOTA, Colombia** (AP)—Pope Francis opens the first full day in his Colombia visit on Thursday with messages to political leaders and citizens alike encouraging all to rally behind a peace process seeking an end for Latin America's longest-running conflict and to address the inequalities that fueled it.

Francis will kick off the day with a meeting with President Juan Manuel Santos at the presidential palace, where he is likely to call for a building of bridges among elites bitterly divided by last year's peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

It will be followed in the afternoon by an outdoor Mass in Simon Bolivar Park that is expected to be attended by hundreds of thousands of worshippers in one of Latin America's most-fervently Roman Catholic nations.

In between, he is to meet with bishops from around the region, including his first encounter with clergy from neighboring Venezuela, who are looking for the pope to demand accountability from their country's socialist government and deliver a message of hope to a nation torn by political and economic turmoil.

His 20th trip abroad as pope, Francis' five-day visit to Colombia is a highly emotional one, fulfilling a promise he made to government and FARC negotiators when he visited Cuba in 2015 as negotiations between the two dragged on in Havana.

Back then, he appealed to both sides not to let the historic opportunity for peace slip by. But now that the deal is signed, the guns silenced and 7,000 rebels are transitioning back to civilian life, Colombians face the even more difficult challenge of coming together and eradicating the social disparities at the root of the half-century conflict.

Santos, the winner last year of the Nobel Peace Prize, offered thanks on Wednesday for Pope Francis pushing negotiators during difficult moments of the four-year talks. He expressed hope the pontiff's visit will inspire Colombians to take the next step and definitively put behind them the long decades of political violence that left 220,000 dead and 7 million internally displaced.

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

**Commonwealth Zoning Special Board Meeting Agenda**
**Thursday, September 21, 2017**
**5:30PM, CUC Board Conference Room**
**3rd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Building**
**Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp**

**A. Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

**B. Public Hearings:**
1. Enforcement Hearing on Notice of Violation (NOV) # 2017-1050, issued on 5/31/2017, to Castle Project (CNMI) LLC, imposing a fine in the amount of $25,000.00. The Zoning Administrator issued the NOV to Castle Project (CNMI) LLC for violating the terms and conditions of its permit #2016-1360 (issued 9/19/2016) and approved site plan, as required in the permit and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013. Castle Project (CNMI) LLC appeals the NOV and the imposition of penalties by the Zoning Administrator pursuant to Section 1406 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.
2. Summary Suspension of Major Site Plan Permit # 2017-0779, issued on 6/2/2017 to Zone D Development Project (Saipan Housing). The Zoning Administrator imposed a summary suspension of Zone D Development Project's (Saipan Housing) permit for the Multifamily Apartment development in Chalan Piao, pursuant to Section 1312 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, for failing to show the correct dimensions of access way(s) into the property from a public road. Zone D Development Project (Saipan Housing) appeals the Zoning Administrator's summary suspension of its Major Site Plan Permit #2017-0779 pursuant to Section 1406 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

**C. Communication**
**D. Old Business**
**E. New Business**
**F. Executive (Closed) Session:**
**G. Miscellaneous**
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting
**H. Adjourn**

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

*/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman*

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**
**for**
**Summary Suspension of Major Site Plan Permit # 2017-0779**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on the appeal of Zone D Development Project's (Saipan Housing) Summary Suspension of its Major Site Plan Permit #2017-0779, issued on 6/2/2017. The Zoning Administrator imposed a summary suspension of Zone D Development Project's (Saipan Housing) permit for the Multifamily Apartment development in Chalan Piao, pursuant to Section 1312 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, for failing to show the correct dimensions of access way(s) into the property from a public road. Zone D Development Project (Saipan Housing) appeals the Zoning Administrator's summary suspension of its Major Site Plan Permit # 2017-0779 pursuant to Section 1406 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.
Zone D Development Project's (Saipan Housing) is located in Chalan Piao on lots # 458-NEW-1, 458-NEW-2, & 458-NEW-3.

**Date:** **September 21, 2017**
**Time:** **5:30 pm**
**Place:** **CUC Board Conference Room**
**3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building**

Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 20, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

*/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman*

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**
**for**
**Enforcement – Notice of Violation #2017-1050**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on the appeal of Castle Project (CNMI) LLC from Notice of Violation (NOV) #2017-1050, issued on 5/31/2017, imposing a fine in the amount of $25,000.00. The Zoning Administrator issued the NOV to Castle Project (CNMI) LLC for violating the terms and conditions of its permit #2016-1360 (issued 9/19/2016) and approved site plan, as required in the permit and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013. Castle Project (CNMI) LLC appeals the NOV and the imposition of penalties by the Zoning Administrator pursuant to Section 1406 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013. Castle Project (CNMI) LLC is located in Tanapag on lots # 030 B 13, 030 B 15, & 030 B 18.

**Date:** **September 21, 2017**
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**Place:** **CUC Board Conference Room**
**3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building**

Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, September 20, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.
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*/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman*

# Off the Wall

## OFFBEAT BRIEFS

### Fake architect sentenced in 'Operation Vandelay Industries

**SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.** (AP)—A fake architect named Newman has been sentenced to 2 1/3 to 7 years in state prison for posing as an architect in eastern New York. Paul J. Newman also was ordered Tuesday in Saratoga County Court to pay more than $115,000 to his victims in Albany, Rensselaer, and Saratoga counties. Newman pleaded guilty in June to grand larceny and fraud after an investigation by New York's attorney general dubbed "Operation Vandelay Industries." Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office said Newman had rendered fraudulent architectural services since 2010. Victims included municipalities and businesses. Schneiderman dubbed the operation to nab Newman "Vandelay Industries" in reference to a long-running joke on "Seinfeld" about a fictional company by that name. A character named Newman was Jerry's nemesis on the sitcom.

### Jersey shore town bans elaborate tents to help overcrowding

**BELMAR, N.J.** (AP)—A New Jersey shore town is banning elaborate tents from the beach as a way to help alleviate crowding. Belmar's council voted Tuesday night to stop so-called "beach spreading," taking effect in the summer season of 2018. Large tents and canopies will be banned from Memorial Day until Labor Day. Mayor Matt Doherty says the increasing number of tents had gotten out of hand. He says he's not in favor of more government regulation, but people weren't using common sense. He tells the Asbury Park Press he has received complaints from the Department of Public Works, police, life guards and patrons about tents that make crowding worse. The resolution wouldn't affect tents for small children or beach umbrellas.

### Maine's 'Passy Pete' lobster predicts 6 more weeks of summer

**BELFAST, Maine** (AP)—A group of Mainers says Passy Pete the Lobster has predicted six more weeks of summer at an annual ceremony. The crustacean has been fished out of the Passagassawakeag River for the past three years in a tradition modeled after famed groundhog Punxsutawney Phil's winter prediction in Pennsylvania. David Crabiel and his business partner, David Brassbridge, thought up the eccentric ceremony as a way to have some fun. Each year, a group of barons flank Passy Pete as he picks a scroll to determine whether Maine will see an extended summer or be greeted by winter. This year's ceremony took place Monday. Crabiel tells WLBZ-TV Pete's been right the past two years. Brassbridge says they hope to carry on the tradition.

### Cops: Man who robbed Pittsburgh-area bank hired jitney

**HOMESTEAD, Pa.** (AP)—Police in western Pennsylvania say a man who robbed a Pittsburgh-area bank hired a jitney, which was pulled over by authorities who followed the vehicle using a tracking device placed in the stolen money. Allegheny County police say 28-year-old Christian Moore robbed the First National Bank in Homestead about 1:40pm Tuesday. Police say Moore ran to a jitney stand after handing a teller a note demanding money. County police say Homestead officers followed the jitney and stopped it in Pittsburgh's Hazelwood neighborhood, arresting Moore and finding the money and a gun. The jitney driver told police she didn't know Moore had committed a crime before hiring her for a ride.

### Police 'terrified' by red 'It' balloons tied to sewer grates

**LITITZ, Pa.** (AP)—Police officers in a small Pennsylvania town are evidently afraid of a certain homicidal clown. The Lititz police department on Tuesday posted photos of red balloons a prankster tied to a pair of sewer grates. A red balloon is the calling card of Pennywise, the sewer-dwelling, child-eating clown in Stephen King's horror novel "It." The hotly anticipated movie version opens in theaters Friday. In a playful Facebook post , police write they admire the prankster's creativity but were "completely terrified" while removing the balloons and "respectfully request they do not do that again." Police also suggest people watch previews of the movie with the lights turned on and the volume turned low. The police department's post ends with a famous line from the book: "You'll float too."

### Sheep get loose, dodge traffic in Alaska's biggest city

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** (AP)—Bears and moose are a common sight on Alaska roadways, but drivers in the state's largest city had a whole different animal problem Wednesday. KTUU reports police received a call about loose sheep and a ram wandering through traffic in south Anchorage. A dispatch from police said a nearby resident was able to corral the animals into a fenced area. The owner was located and will be united with the livestock.

### Fowl play: Dutch man imprisoned for stealing plastic duck

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands** (AP)—A Dutch judge has called fowl play on a man who abducted and damaged a giant rubber duck. Prosecutors say in a statement that the 45-year-old was sentenced Wednesday to eight weeks in prison for stealing the one-meter (three-foot) high bright yellow plastic duck from outside the Goudse Eend (Gouda Duck) cafe in the central Dutch city of Gouda on June 23. The duck toy was later found badly damaged elsewhere in the city, prosecutors say. The prosecution statement says the man will only have to serve two weeks if he undergoes "lifestyle training." A judge also ordered him to pay 740 euros ($880) compensation to the owner of the cafe.

### Cops: Frat party cited for indoor waterfall, minors drinking

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.** (AP)—Authorities say underage drinking and a waterfall pouring down a staircase led police to break up a party at a Massachusetts Institute of Technology fraternity house. Boston police say the first floor of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house was being "operated as a nightclub" with low light, strobe lights and a DJ on Sunday night without the approval of the City of Boston License Division. Police say detectives observed someone under 21 with a can of beer. They say the frat brothers had also installed a waterfall on the upper floor that soaked the marble staircase. The fraternity's president was issued a violation for hazardous conditions inside the building and other offenses.


*In Celebration of his new life*

**†JOSEPH RAYMOND DUENAS ALDAN**

**Lovingly known as "PING"**

**Born to life August 04, 1970 - Called to Eternal life on September 02, 2017**

***In his new life, Joe now joins his:***

**FATHER:** †VICENTE MATAGOLAI ALDAN
**PATERNAL GRAND FATHER:** †JOSE CASTRO ALDAN
**PATERNAL GRAND MOTHER:** †RITA MATAGOLAI ALDAN
**MATERNAL GRAND MOTHER:** †MARIA TENORIO CRUZ PEREDO

**FATHER IN LAW:** †RAMON TORRES TUDELA
**PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS** †ISIDORO B. / †TERESA T. TUDELA
†CECILIA T./TORCUATO S. BORJA
**MATERNAL GRAND FATHER IN LAW:** †JOAQUIN DLG. BERMUDES
**MATERNAL GRAND MOTHER IN LAW:** †ADELA CASTRO BERMUDES

***His memories will forever live in the heart of his:***

**WIFE:** **LUCRETIA "LOU" TUDELA ALDAN**
**CHILDREN:** VICENTE "BENG" TUDELA ALDAN(KELSEY)
ANDREW RAY TUDELA ALDAN
REINE CECIL TUDELA ALDAN
OLIVIA CLAIRE TUDELA ALDAN
JACOB ANTHONY TUDELA ALDAN
**GRANDSON:** TATE STEFAN G. ALDAN

**MOTHER:** INES (*YOKO*) CRUZ DUENAS
ESTELITA ROSARIO ALDAN

**MOTHER IN LAW:** REMEDIOS BERMUDES TUDELA

**BROTHERS & SISTERS:**
CHARLIE D./DOLORES C. LEON GUERRERO & FAMILY, NICOLAS D./ JACQUELINE C. LEON GUERRERO & FAMILY, CHRISTOPHER D./ FRANCES P. LEON GUERRERO & FAMILY, VELMA D. ALDAN & FAMILY, RITA A./ VICENTE C. SANTOS & FAMILY, JAMES D./ RUFINA DLG ALDAN & FAMILY, ANTONETTE A./ TROY M. PALACIOS & FAMILY, SEAN D./ CINDY V. ALDAN & FAMILY, SOPHIA D. ALDAN/ PETROS TAISAGUE & FAMILY, VERONICA FAYE D. ALDAN/ JOSE OJEDA & FAMILY, LILLIAN C. LEON GUERRERO

**BROTHERS & SISTERS IN LAW:**
EDWIN B. TUDELA & FAMILY
LYSANDER B./MARIAN C. TUDELA & FAMILY
JAIME B. TUDELA/ DEXTER MARATITA & FAMILY

**HE IS ADDITIONALLY SURVIVED BY HIS NUMEROUS UNCLES, AUNTS, COUSINS, NIECES, NEPHEWS, GOD-CHILDREN, FRIENDS & CO-WORKERS.**

**Daily Mass of Intention for the repose of his soul are being celebrated each evening at 6:00pm at Nuestra Senora de Soledad Church in Kagman.**

**Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, September 09, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains.**

**Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am followed by Interment Service at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens where he will be laid to a peaceful rest.**

*Please join us in prayers*

**Lucretia "Lou" Tudela Aldan, Children and Family**

# Science & Technology

## House passes bill to speed deployment of self-driving cars

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The House voted Wednesday to speed the introduction of self-driving cars by giving the federal government authority to exempt automakers from safety standards not applicable to the technology, and to permit deployment of up to 100,000 of the vehicles annually over the next several years.

The bill was passed by a voice vote. State and local officials have raised concern that it limits their ability to protect the safety of their citizens by giving to the federal government sole authority to regulate the vehicles' design and performance. States would still decide whether to permit self-driving cars on their roads. Generally, the federal government regulates the vehicle, while states regulate the driver.

Automakers have complained that a patchwork of laws states have passed in recent years would hamper deployment of the vehicles, which they see as the future of the industry. Self-driving cars are forecast to dramatically lower traffic fatalities once they are on roads in significant numbers, among other benefits. Early estimates indicate there were more than 40,000 traffic fatalities last year. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says 94 percent of crashes involve human error.

Members of the Senate Commerce committee are also working on self-driving car legislation, but a bill hasn't been introduced. If a measure passes the full Senate, the two versions would have to be reconciled before President Donald Trump could sign it into law.

## 'Special event' at Apple set for Sept. 12

**CUPERTINO, Calif.**—Mark your calendars, Apple fans. The big iPhone reveal is set for Sept. 12.

Apple will host the event at its brand new "Spaceship" campus in Cupertino, according to invitations sent out Thursday. The 1,000-seat Steve Jobs Theater, which sits just outside the giant ring structure, will be the official venue of the event.

In the invite, Apple simply wrote "Let's meet at our place."

Sept. 12 was reported earlier this week by the Wall Street Journal as the likely date for the special fall event, where Apple typically unveils its newest iPhone models and other hardware upgrades.

Apple is widely expected to unveil a host of new products, including a 10th anniversary iPhone. With the new model, the phone is said to have gone through its biggest design overhaul in years and is rumored to be packed with new features and materials such as an OLED display, facial recognition 3-D sensor, and wireless charging.

Apple is also expected to release updated versions of the current existing iPhone 7 and 7 Plus.

Beyond the iPhone, Apple is expected to release a new Apple Watch, which is rumored to have a LTE cellular modem that allows it to receive data without an iPhone nearby. A new Apple TV with 4K video streaming capabilities and HDR support may also be revealed.

Typically, the new products hit the market about 10 days after the fall event. ***(The Mercury News)***

## SOUND ADVICE: Converting songs to digital files

By DON LINDICH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Q. I found a single-piece sound system on Amazon called the Boytone B-22M for $119. It has the ability to convert vinyl, cassette tapes and CDs to MP3 and put it on a flash drive, offering even more capability (adding cassette and vinyl) than the Teac CD player you recommended recently. What is your opinion of this system? Good, just OK, or not good will suffice.**

**A.** Systems like the Boytone B-22M are relatively common, and though I have not tried that specific unit I have spent a little bit of time with others. Your answer has two parts. For converting cassettes and CDs to MP3s, it would rate as "just OK." The sound quality of the conversions would be middle-of-the-road at best, and for many people that may be sufficient.

For converting vinyl, or even playing it over the speakers I would rate it as "not good" and I would not recommend the system for that purpose. A common characteristic of almost all of these inexpensive all-in-ones share is they use ceramic phono cartridges with poor quality needles to pick up the sound from the record. These record players do not sound very good, and the ceramic cartridges with cheap needles can quickly cause audible damage to your records.

Electrohome makes a similar model called the Signature Retro Music System that has a ceramic cartridge they claim will not harm records, due to its conical sapphire stylus (needle.) It is $199. I have not tried it myself, but the parent company is very reputable (they own Fluance as well) so I am willing to give them the benefit of the doubt for now. The unit has a 4-star rating with more than 1,000 reviews on Amazon, so customers seem to be pretty happy with it, especially for the sound quality playing CDs and FM radio. It does not have a cassette player, though. It has standout good looks, resembling a classic tabletop console record player in real wood with amber lighting and an antique patina faceplate. If I needed something like this, it is the one I would buy for the style alone! electrohome.com

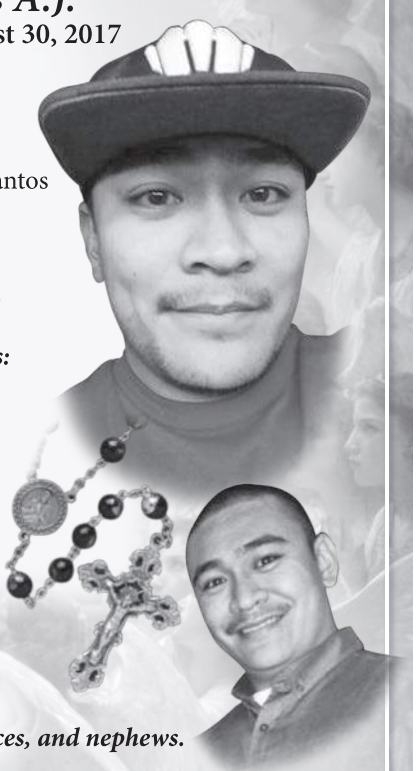
*Contact Don Lindich at www.soundadvicenews.com and use the "submit question" link on that site.*


*In Loving Memory of*

†Anthony Joseph Santos Masga

*"Also known as A.J."*

October 1, 1992 – August 30, 2017



*In his new life he now joins his:*

**Grandparents:** †Adan Manglona Masga
†Cecilia Crisostomo Masga
†Saturnino Deleon Guerrero Santos
†Marcelina Chargualaf Santos
**Father:** †Gabriel Crisostomo Masga
**Brother:** †Adam Santos Masga
**Nephew:** †Noah Masga Deleon Guerrero

*His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:*

**Mother:** Nicolasa Santos Masga
**Common-Law Wife:** Jordana Sablan Brel
**Children:** Nevaeh Honey Brel Masga
McKenzie Jae Brel Masga
**Brothers:** Gabriel/Helen & Children
Saturnino/Bobbie & Children
Andy/Hayley & Children
Nobert/Diana & Children
**Sisters:** Cecilia/Johnny & Children
Linda/Raymond & Children
Jessica/David & Children

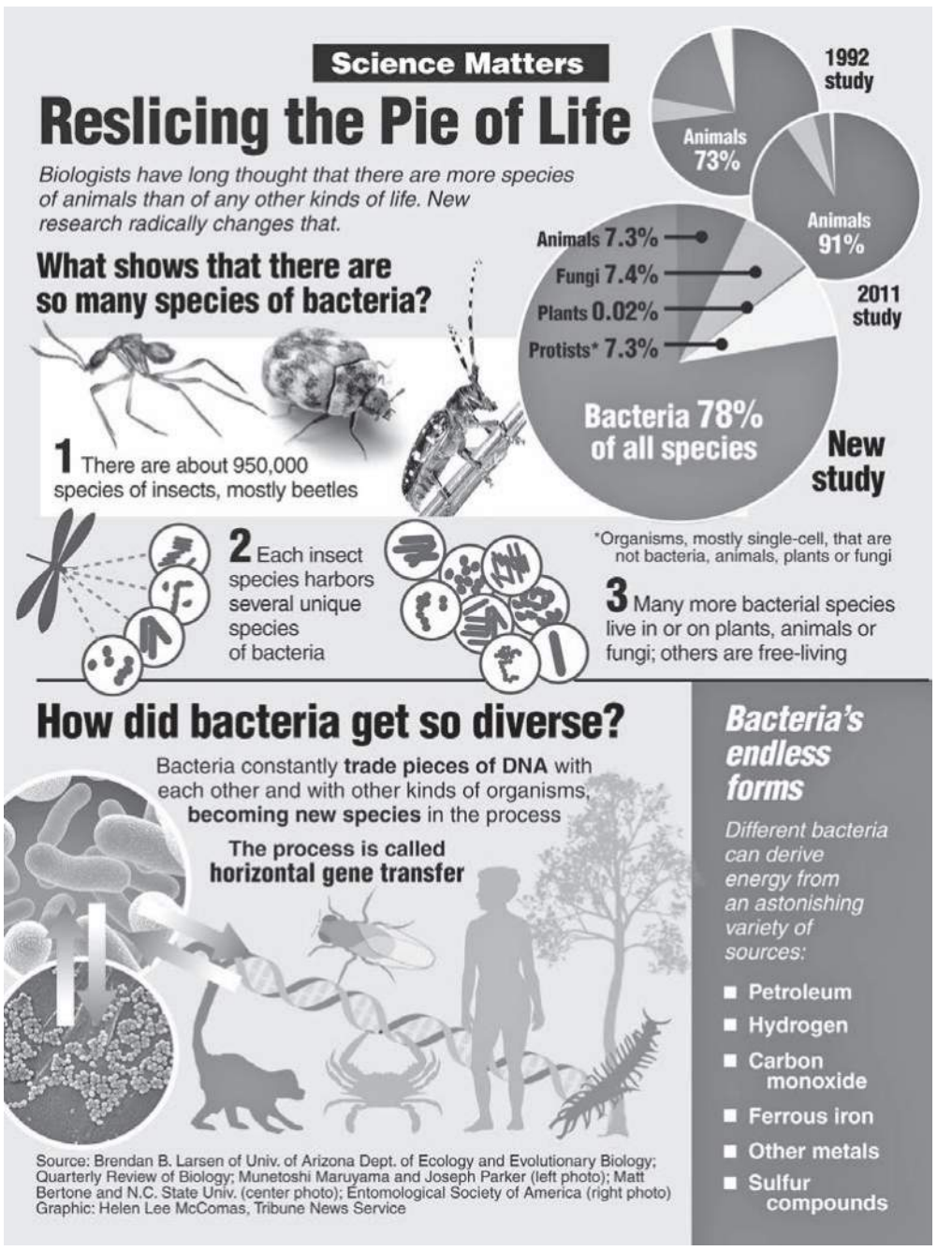


*He will also be missed by his uncles, aunties, nieces, and nephews.*

Daily mass is being offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2017. His remains will be escorted from Borja's Funeral Home to Tanapag Church at 7:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. follow by interment services at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be laid to peaceful rest.

*Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase*

**The Family**



Science Matters
Reslicing the Pie of Life
Biologists have long thought that there are more species of animals than of any other kinds of life. New research radically changes that.
1992 study
Animals 73%
Animals 91%
2011 study
Animals 7.3%
Fungi 7.4%
Plants 0.02%
Protists* 7.3%
Bacteria 78% of all species
New study
What shows that there are so many species of bacteria?
1 There are about 950,000 species of insects, mostly beetles
2 Each insect species harbors several unique species of bacteria
*Organisms, mostly single-cell, that are not bacteria, animals, plants or fungi
3 Many more bacterial species live in or on plants, animals or fungi; others are free-living
How did bacteria get so diverse?
Bacteria constantly trade pieces of DNA with each other and with other kinds of organisms, becoming new species in the process
The process is called horizontal gene transfer
Bacteria's endless forms
Different bacteria can derive energy from an astonishing variety of sources:
Petroleum
Hydrogen
Carbon monoxide
Ferrous iron
Other metals
Sulfur compounds
Source: Brendan B. Larsen of Univ. of Arizona Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; Quarterly Review of Biology; Munetoshi Maruyama and Joseph Parker (left photo); Matt Bertone and N.C. State Univ. (center photo); Entomological Society of America (right photo)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

# Life & Style

## Steinbeck stepdaughter wins $13M in suit over movie rights

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A federal jury awarded John Steinbeck's stepdaughter more than $13 million in a lawsuit claiming the author's son and daughter-in-law impeded film adaptations of his classic works.

Jurors in Los Angeles found Tuesday in favor of Waverly Scott Kaffaga, who alleged that long-running litigation over Steinbeck's estate prevented her from making the most of his copyrights at a time when marquee names such as Steven Spielberg and Jennifer Lawrence were interested in bringing the novelist's masterpieces back to the screen.

She claimed remakes of "The Grapes of Wrath" and "East of Eden" fell apart over the years.

Kaffaga, daughter of the late author's third wife, Elaine, sued the estate of stepbrother Thomas Steinbeck, who died last year, his widow, Gail, and their company.

After the verdict, Kaffaga issued a statement in her capacity as executor for the estate of Elaine Steinbeck.

"We are pleased with the jury's verdict that recognizes the estate's full control of the rights to John Steinbeck's works," she said. "The outcome upholds the estate's mission of sharing his legacy with the world."

Gail Steinbeck said in a statement that she was disappointed in the outcome but confident her side would prevail on appeal.

Her attorney Matthew Berger said they were at a disadvantage from the start, given the evidence they were allowed to present.

"We did what we could to defend these outrageous claims," Berger said in a statement.

The lawsuit followed a decades-long dispute between Thomas Steinbeck and Kaffaga's mother over control of the author's works.

Thomas Steinbeck has lost most rounds in court, including a lawsuit he and the daughter of his late brother, John Steinbeck IV, brought that spurred Kaffaga to countersue in the current case.

A judge had already ruled the couple breached a contract with Kaffaga. It was up to the Los Angeles jury to decide if Thomas and Gail Steinbeck interfered with deals and should pay up.

The jury decided in favor of Kaffaga and awarded her $5.25 million in compensatory damages and $7.9 million in punitive damages.

Gail Steinbeck's lawyer said she never intentionally interfered in deals that would have benefited her and her husband and that would have served their interest promoting the legacy of the Nobel Prize winner.

An attorney for Kaffaga said Gail Steinbeck caught wind of projects and then threatened movie makers, saying she and her husband had legal rights to the work and also cut secret side deals without notifying Kaffaga.

In one instance, Thomas Steinbeck secretly signed a $650,000 deal with DreamWorks to be an executive producer on a film remake of "The Grapes of Wrath," the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that starred Henry Fonda on the silver screen and won two Oscars.

## Sutherland, Burnett, Roizman, Varda to get honorary Oscars

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Actor Donald Sutherland, writer-director Charles Burnett, cinematographer Owen Roizman and Belgian director Agnes Varda are getting honorary Oscars this year.

The film academy said Wednesday that the four honorees will receive their Oscar statuettes at the ninth annual Governors Awards ceremony in November.

"I'm just so pleased with these four very different kinds of people, their different crafts and the different kinds of films that they make," academy president John Bailey said in an interview. "This shows the best of the whole notion of what the academy and the governors of the academy espouse to do, which is honor many different kinds of filmmakers."

The board of governors selected the honorees Tuesday night. None has previously won an Oscar, Bailey said.

"One of the things that's so wonderful about these (recipients) is they can come from anywhere inside the filmmaking community," he said. "These are our awards. These are the people that we feel we want to single out."

AP

In this Sept. 3, 2017, file photo, actor Donald Sutherland poses during a photo call for the film "The Leisure Seeker" at the 74th Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

Burnett is an independent filmmaker whose work has been celebrated for its portrayals of the African-American experience. He wrote, directed, produced, shot and edited his first film, "Killer of Sheep," in 1977.

Roizman has received five Academy Award nominations for his work on such films as "The French Connection," ''The Exorcist" and "Network." He also served as a governor of the academy's cinematography branch from 2002 to 2011.

The 89-year-old Varda wrote and directed her first feature film in 1956 and released her latest film this year.

"She made the first truly French new wave film in 1955," Bailey said. "It's only been in the last decade that really, internationally, people have understood what an important filmmaker she has been and continues to be."

Sutherland has appeared in more than 140 films, including "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," ''Ordinary People" and "The Hunger Games" series.

Bailey was the cinematographer on "Ordinary People," which went on to win four Academy Awards, including best picture. He said he remembers being surprised Sutherland wasn't nominated then.

## HBO's 'Veep' to end after seventh season in 2018

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—HBO says its much-honored political satire "Veep" is coming to an end.

The cable channel said Wednesday that "Veep" will air its seventh and final season in 2018.

Series star Julia Louis-Dreyfus won five consecutive Emmy Awards for her portrayal of Selina Meyer, a self-absorbed politician and failed president. The actress is up for a sixth trophy at the Sept. 17 Emmy ceremony.

Louis-Dreyfus tried to comfort "Veep" fans over their pending loss.

"It's true BUT don't despair cuz we still have a whole season 7 to write and film," she posted on her Twitter account.

"Veep," has also won two consecutive best comedy Emmys, and is in the running to repeat. Tony Hale, who plays Meyer's overly devoted personal aide, Gary, could pick up his third best supporting actor Emmy.

HBO programming chief Casey Bloys wrote in a statement that HBO respected the producers' decision to bring the show to a close, calling it "bittersweet."

## Husband's distress over ex's bad news perplexes new wife

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my husband for five years. He's the man of my dreams, and we have a wonderful marriage. Recently we learned that his ex-wife—to whom he was married for 20 years—has been diagnosed with a life-threatening cancer. They have two adult children together.

I have never questioned my husband's love or devotion to me. What's bothering me is his reaction to the news. They had a horrible relationship and never got along, but he is very upset over this. I'm not sure how to handle this. I don't want to seem insensitive, but the emotion he is showing for her has really hurt me. I realize she's the mother of his children, but they have been divorced for years. Please help me understand what's going on with him.

STRONG EMOTIONS

**DEAR STRONG EMOTIONS: Not knowing your husband, I can only hazard a few guesses. Although he and his ex-wife have been divorced for years, the idea of a possibly fatal illness striking someone who was once so close may be what's upsetting him. Or he may feel some guilt because of the circumstances of their divorce. Or her diagnosis may have been a chilly reminder of his own mortality. I hope this will give you some insight, because you are going to have to be patient with him until this is resolved.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I need advice on how to enjoy my life and not allow the toxic environment of my job to overwhelm me. My job was nice when I started 12 years ago, and I enjoy helping people. I process payments for disabled people in a cubicle setting. However, my place of employment has become a backstabbing, uncaring, favoritism-oriented environment.

I am well-paid and have good health insurance, so I need to stay. But I am very sad each day going into work. It is affecting the way I interact with my children and my husband. Any ideas on how to get past the horrible day in the office so I can be at peace at home?

DREADING IT

**DEAR DREADING: I do have a few suggestions. When it's time to take your break, use it as an opportunity to escape the toxic environment. Put on headphones and listen to upbeat music, read a book or leave the office to eat lunch or have a snack. If possible, take a short walk or meditate and do breathing exercises to relax. Then, after work, before interacting with your children and your spouse, give yourself the "gift" of a 15- to 30-minute walk or jog, which may help you to draw a firm line of demarcation between your work life and your home life. And take your vacation time to get away and replenish your spirit.**

**DEAR ABBY:** We have an adult relative who seems to feel it is appropriate to color a picture out of a coloring book in lieu of a gift or money for graduations, weddings, etc. She also seeks approval from everyone at these events to comment on how beautiful it is, to praise her for her coloring ability and how much time it took. We are tired of getting coloring book pictures as gifts. How can we get her to stop?

MIFFED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR MIFFED: You may be tired of receiving those artistic efforts, but to say that to the relative who gave them to you would be beyond rude. Accept them graciously, and thank the person for the "time and effort" it took to complete them. What you do with them afterward is your own business.

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### DEAR ABBY

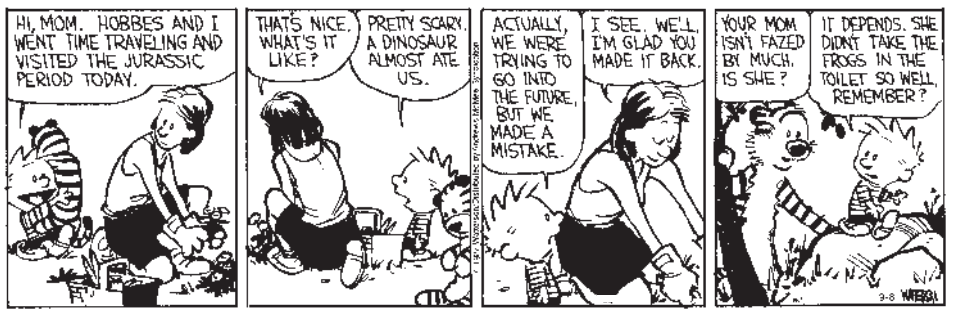
**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, MOM. HOBBES AND I WENT TIME TRAVELING AND VISITED THE JURASSIC PERIOD TODAY.
THAT'S NICE. WHAT'S IT LIKE?
PRETTY SCARY. A DINOSAUR ALMOST ATE US.
ACTUALLY, WE WERE TRYING TO GO INTO THE FUTURE, BUT WE MADE A MISTAKE.
I SEE. WE'LL, I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT BACK.
YOUR MOM ISN'T FAZED BY MUCH. IS SHE?
IT DEPENDS. SHE DIDN'T TAKE THE FROGS IN THE TOILET SO WELL, REMEMBER?

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON?
AN OUTLINE FOR "IGGY WIGGY AND THE UMMY GUMMY REVOLUTION."
IT'S JUST... DO I WANT TO DO A KIDS' BOOK? WHAT WILL THAT DO FOR MY BRAND?
YOU HAVE A BRAND?
UM, HELLO? MY DARK, SEXY, BROODING NOVELIST BRAND?
YES. OF COURSE. HOW COULD I FORGET?
WELL... LIVING WITH ME, YOU'RE PROBABLY USED TO MY BROODITUDE.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

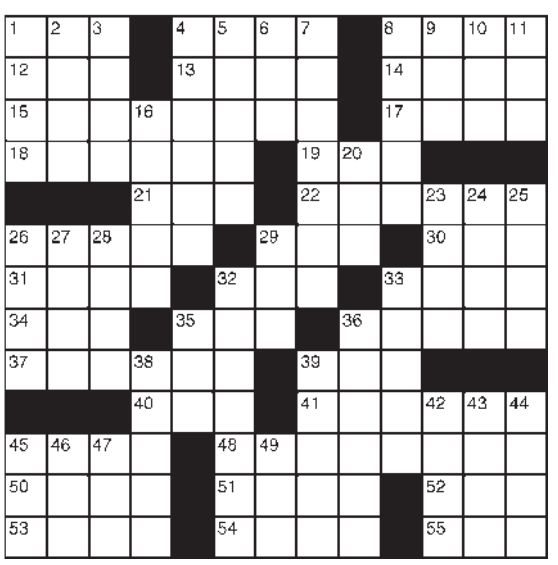
**ACROSS**
1 Glutton
4 Now, on a memo
8 Glitz partner
12 Scratch (out)
13 Vogue rival
14 Mature
15 Native of Yerevan
17 "Yeah, right"
18 Overtook
19 "Platoon" locale
21 Menlo Park monogram
22 Weapons store
26 Innocents
29 Stick with a kick
30 Observe
31 Prior nights
32 Perched
33 Actor Cumming
34 Grazing land
35 Heart chart (Abbr.)
36 Molecule parts
37 Designer Giorgio
39 Nipper's co.
40 "Kapow!"
41 Spanning
45 Vittles
48 Tall cupboards
50 Suffix for million
51 Long lunches?
52 Mouse chaser
53 Skeletal
54 Shoelace snarl
55 Donkey

**DOWN**
1 Pile
2 Gumbo need
3 Jewels
4 Dido's lover
5 Trombone part
6 Pie — mode
7 Long, tapering flag
8 Big name in fairy tales
9 Ad- — (improvise)
10 Mimic
11 Convened
16 — Park, Colorado
20 Gallery display
23 Norway's capital
24 500 sheets
25 Hankerings
26 Lugosi of film
27 Declare
28 Smile broadly
29 Kids' game
32 Aspen headwear
33 Arcade pioneer
35 Disney deer
36 Confront boldly
38 Westminster, e.g.
39 Stallone role
42 Killer whale
43 Salty septet
44 Bygone jets
45 Prattle
46 Carnival city
47 Samovar
49 Skedaddle

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | A | N | E | | | H | U | G | E | | C | M | G |
| C | M | E | N | | | O | P | A | L | | P | A | R |
| H | A | V | E | A | B | A | - | L | | | E | Y | E |
| S | - | E | R | N | C | | | | I | K | N | O | W |
| | | | G | O | | | M | U | S | | C | | |
| D | E | F | Y | | | B | E | G | | | D | A | T | E |
| I | C | I | | | | U | R | - | | | L | A | R |
| P | O | R | T | | | D | I | Y | | | F | L | U | B |
| | | | E | R | N | S | T | | | S | O | | | |
| W | O | W | I | E | | | | U | T | O | P | I | A |
| U | M | A | | S | T | A | N | D | - | A | L | L | |
| S | A | L | | T | O | A | D | | | E | L | L | A |
| S | N | I | | S | O | H | O | | | D | F | S | I |

Yesterday's answer 9-8



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Pink, 38; David Arquette, 46; Brooke Burke, 46; Neko Case, 47.

**Happy Birthday:** Use whatever wiggle room you've got to bring about the changes that will encourage greater cash flow, earnings or personal lifestyle changes that can ease your stress and give you the time and space to live life your own way. Your happiness will come from making choices that encourage you to pay it forward. Purge what you don't need. Your numbers are 8, 15, 24, 29, 33, 41, 46.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Your mood will fluctuate along with the way people respond to you. Stay focused on what you can contribute and how you want to present your skills, knowledge or plans to others. A partnership will weigh heavily on a decision you make. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Look for good investments. Study current trends and consider how you should move forward. Don't share too much information until you have your facts straight and are well on your way to reaching your goals. Avoid being stubborn. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* A change of attitude will lead to new beginnings as well as opportunities. Don't promise anything you don't want to make good on. Home improvements will encourage you to entertain more often. Spend more time with your family and friends. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Back away from anyone trying to push you into something you don't want to do. Emotional meddling can be expected if you are too open about the way you feel or what you plan to do. Work hard and alone. ✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Join in the fun. Travel, talks and gathering information will help you reach your goals. Being a people person will encourage you to mingle and meet people who can enrich your life. Love and romance are highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll make headway if you work alone. The less interference you face, the more relaxed and astute you will become. Innovative life decisions will bring you closer to your goals and to the happiness you aspire to achieve. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Partnerships will be emotionally draining. Take a step back and offer to help someone who is much worse off than you, and it will help you make tough decisions and changes that can eventually lead to a better life. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Be careful who you confide in personally or professionally. Don't share passwords or secrets. Refuse to let what others have make you jealous. Do your own thing and measure your success by what makes you happy. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Extend an invitation to someone you'd like to visit with, or make plans to travel somewhere that allows you to reconnect with someone from your past. Business trips should be combined with relaxation. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Look inward and stick to what you do best. Joint ventures are off-limits if you want to avoid taking a loss. Personal growth and investing in your future should be done without sharing your initiatives with anyone.✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Getting back to basics will help you move forward. Reconnecting with old friends, attending a reunion or making special plans with someone you love are all highlighted. Personal growth should be your priority. An unexpected financial change is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Education may be required when dealing with technology or trends. Study hard and make sure you are prepared to deal with any challenges you encounter along the way. A partnership should be questioned if you feel information is being withheld. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are imaginative and playful. You are a go-getter and a trailblazer.

*To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 | 9 | | | 7 | | 1 | |
| 1 | | | 8 | | | | | 6 |
| 2 | | 4 | | 1 | | | | |
| | 2 | | | | | | | 8 |
| | | 5 | | | | 4 | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | | | | 4 | | 8 | | 7 |
| 7 | | | | | 8 | | | 5 |
| | 3 | | 5 | | | 2 | 9 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| 6 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 |

Difficulty level ★★★

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**COLLECTIBLE TEA SETS** Solution: 6 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | S | I | L | G | N | E | N | G | R | A | V | E | D | T |
| S | I | A | S | R | O | L | O | C | G | A | R | D | E | N |
| I | L | N | C | E | L | D | N | A | H | A | A | M | T | R |
| N | V | T | H | C | O | U | N | T | R | Y | U | O | T | E |
| G | E | I | I | E | T | A | O | T | D | M | P | F | O | T |
| A | R | Q | N | N | R | C | S | I | E | E | Y | R | D | T |
| P | M | U | A | O | I | I | A | H | R | A | C | U | F | A |
| O | O | E | P | B | M | M | T | O | S | T | N | I | R | P |
| R | O | E | N | O | O | N | R | E | T | F | A | T | E | R |
| E | L | G | T | N | A | N | A | P | A | J | F | O | N | E |
| M | R | D | D | S | A | Y | S | P | A | R | T | Y | C | T |
| A | I | I | Y | T | E | A | P | L | A | Y | O | R | H | R |
| E | E | R | E | A | L | R | O | G | L | A | S | S | Y | A |
| R | H | B | V | I | C | T | O | R | I | A | N | T | E | T |
| C | I | M | A | R | E | C | N | F | L | O | W | E | R | S |

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Add, Afternoon, Antique, Arts, Bone, Bridge, Caudle, Ceramic, China, Chrysanthemum, Colors, Country, Creamer, Diamond, Dotted, English, Engraved, Fancy, Flowers, Forest, French, Fruit, Garden, Glassy, Handle, Heirloom, Inherit, Japan, Ornate, Party, Pattern, Pot, Prints, Real, Roses, Royal, Silver, Singapore, Spoon, Starter, Tray, Trim, Trio, Victorian

**Yesterday's Answer: Matisse**

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Find today's solution in classified section

# Del Potro spoils Federer-Nadal semis duel

AP
Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina reacts after defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017, in New York.

**NEW YORK** (AP)—So much for the first U.S. Open matchup between Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Federer failed to live up to his end of the bargain.

Hours after Nadal did his part with an easy-as-can-be victory to get to the semifinals at Flushing Meadows, Federer was unable to join him for what would have been the most-anticipated showdown of the entire two weeks, wasting chances to take control and missing shots he normally makes in a 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (8), 6-4 loss to 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro on Wednesday night.

"He came up with the goods when he needed to," Federer said, "and I helped him a little bit sometimes, too, maybe."

Federer described himself as too "edgy" and said "that little magic was missing."

He also insisted that, unlike just about everyone else, he did not spend any time at all pondering a possible matchup with Nadal at the only Grand Slam tournament where they've never met. Their wonderful rivalry has included 37 matches, and at least two finals at each of the other majors.

"I had struggled too much throughout the tournament," Federer said, "to think too far ahead."

Given that he is 36, and Nadal is 31, perhaps it is time for the tennis world to concede that Roger vs. Rafa at the U.S. Open just will never happen.

This is the sixth occasion when they were a round away from playing in New York, but one or the other lost—including eight years ago, when del Potro beat Nadal in the semifinals, then Federer in the final to end the Swiss star's run of five consecutive titles at the tournament.

This time, Federer entered the quarterfinals 18-0 in Grand Slam play this season, including titles at the Australian Open and Wimbledon to raise his record count to 19 major championships.

But he tweaked his back at a tournament last month, curtailing his preparation for the U.S. Open, and he was not quite at his best for stretches. He needed five sets to win each of his first two matches — and Wednesday, he succumbed to the del Potro's familiar formula of massive forehands and booming serves.

Before the U.S. Open began, Nadal was honest as can be when asked whether he hoped to face Federer. The answer, the No. 1-seeded Nadal said earnestly, was no—because he'd rather go up against someone easier to beat.

Well, as it turns out, he'll face the 24th-seeded del Potro on Friday. It is the first major semifinal for del Potro since 2013; he missed two years' worth of Grand Slam tournaments until Wimbledon in 2016 because of three operations on his left wrist.

The other semifinal features two men who have never been this far at any major: No. 12 Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain vs. No. 28 Kevin Anderson of South Africa.

The women's semifinals are both all-American matchups, the first time that's happened at the U.S. Open in 36 years : No. 9 Venus Williams vs. unseeded Sloane Stephens, and No. 15 Madison Keys vs. No. 20 CoCo Vandeweghe.

Nadal, who won two of his 15 Grand Slam trophies in New York, overwhelmed 19-year-old Russian Andrey Rublev 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 in the quarterfinals, then had to wait hours to see what Federer would do under the lights against del Potro.

Arthur Ashe Stadium was packed, and both men had loud groups of supporters. Federer's fans cheered del Potro's faults, considered bad etiquette in tennis. Del Potro's faction broke into raucous, soccer-style songs of "Ole, ole, ole, ole! Del-po! Del-po!"

There was some sublime shotmaking by each player, but also some real shakiness from the 36-year-old Federer, whose forehand in particular was problematic: 22 of his 41 unforced errors came on that stroke.

The turning point was the third-set tiebreaker, which Federer was a single point from winning on four occasions.

At 6-4, del Potro hammered a good return that caught Federer off-guard, resulting in a forehand into the net. At 7-6—set up by a double-fault from del Potro—Federer missed a backhand, and his wife, Mirka, put her hands to her temples, before standing to offer encouragement. At 8-7, Federer's fourth and last set point, del Potro hit a huge forehand winner.

That began a run of three points in a row for del Potro to claim that set, the last when Federer pushed a backhand volley long.

The suspense in the fourth set was brief: At 2-all, Federer dumped an overhead into the bottom of the net to gift del Potro a third break point in that game. It was converted with a stinging cross-court backhand return winner.

"I did everything well. I served so good. I hit my forehand as hard as I can," del Potro said. "And I think we played a great match and I deserved to win at the end."

He showed no residual effects from his 3 1/2-hour, five-set comeback victory in the fourth round — or the illness that had the 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) Argentine coughing into a towel in the second set Wednesday. One of his many powerful and precise forehands stood out: a reflex passing shot struck so hard and so close to the at-the-net Federer's head that he ducked out of the way.

Uncharacteristically off at times, Federer shanked a very bad forehand volley to set up del Potro's match point.

"It was one of those matches where, if I ran into a good guy, I was going to lose, I felt. I don't want to say I was in a negative mindset, but I knew going in that I'm not in a safe place," Federer said. "Rightfully so, I'm out of this tournament, because I wasn't good enough—in my mind, in my body, and in my game. ... If you're missing all three, it's going to be tough."

## *All-American semis for first time in 36 years*

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Madison Keys completed the clean sweep for American women, giving the host country all four U.S. Open semifinal spots for the first time in 36 years.

The 15th-seeded Keys served impeccably, controlled groundstroke exchanges from the baseline and was never in trouble during a 6-3, 6-3 victory over 418th-ranked qualifier Kaia Kanepi of Estonia that lasted only 69 minutes Wednesday night.

That came several hours after 20th-seeded CoCo Vandeweghe's 7-6 (4), 6-3 elimination of 2016 runner-up and top-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic. Pliskova's loss means she will be replaced at No. 1 in the rankings by Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza.

On Thursday, Keys faces Vandeweghe, with the winner reaching her first Grand Slam final, and No. 9 seed Venus Williams meets 83rd-ranked Sloane Stephens.

"Oh, my God, it feels so good. We have so many Americans to talk about in the last days of the U.S. Open," Keys said. "I can't tell you how many times I have sat in this chair and had to hear, you know, how horrible tennis is in America."

Williams, whose seven major championships include the 2000 and 2001 U.S. Opens, and Stephens won quarterfinals Tuesday.

"American tennis," said Stephens, seeking her debut in a major final, "is headed in the right direction."

Not since 1981 have there been four American women in the final four at the U.S. Open, when the quartet was champion Tracy Austin, runner-up Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert and Barbara Potter. It hadn't happened at any Grand Slam tournament since Wimbledon four years after that.

While Williams is 37, the oldest semifinalist in tournament history, the other members of the remaining trio are all in their 20s.

Keys, 22, had a rough start to 2017, missing the first two months after offseason surgery on her left wrist, and then had another procedure in June because of lingering pain. She was terrific against Kanepi, who sat with a white towel over her head during changeovers and dropped to 0-6 in Grand Slam quarterfinals.

Keys set the tone in the opening game: ace at 108 mph, ace at 105 mph, service winner at 117 mph, service winner at 112 mph. She wound up with eight aces, part of a 23-8 in total winners.

"This means the world to me," said Keys, also a semifinalist at the 2015 Australian Open. "If someone told me this is where I would be, right before Wimbledon, I wouldn't have believed you."

The 25-year-old Vandeweghe, a niece of former NBA player and current league executive Kiki Vandeweghe, reached her first Grand Slam semifinal at the Australian Open in January. She was the junior champion in New York in 2008, but never had success in the main draw until now: Of her previous eight appearances, half ended in the first round, half in the second.

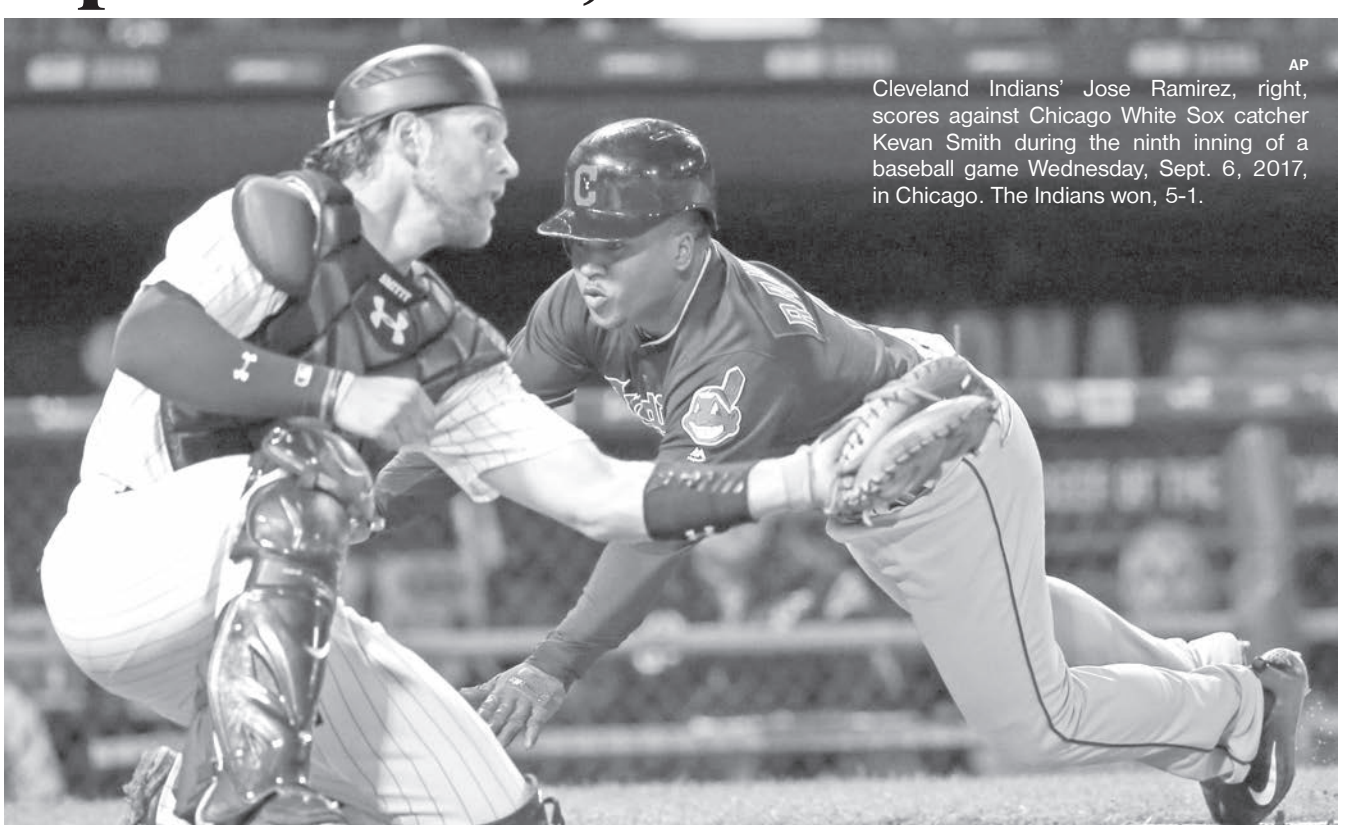
One difference this time at the U.S. Open: Vandeweghe switched coaches midway through the season, teaming up in June with 1987 Wimbledon champion Pat Cash, who was nominated Tuesday for the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

The biggest way in which he's helped, Vandeweghe said, "is channeling my intensity and tenacity out onto the court and putting it into a singular focus."

How?

"You will have to ask him how he's been able to do that. I don't really know. Maybe it's like some Jedi mind trick," said Vandeweghe, who still did not hide her emotions on court, such as when she cracked a racket against the ground after a second consecutive double-fault in the opening set.

# Indians top White Sox, tie club-record win streak



AP
Cleveland Indians' Jose Ramirez, right, scores against Chicago White Sox catcher Kevan Smith during the ninth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017, in Chicago. The Indians won, 5-1.

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Carlos Carrasco allowed three hits in a complete game, giving the Cleveland Indians their 14th straight win in a 5-1 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday night.

Cleveland equaled its longest winning streak in franchise history and also won its 10th straight road game as the right-hander lost his shutout with two outs in the ninth inning when Adam Engel homered.

Carrasco (14-6) faced 28 batters and threw 97 pitches in his eighth career complete game, throwing 76 strikes.

Carlos Santana hit a two-run home run as Cleveland added three runs in the eighth inning to break open a 1-0 game.

After not allowing a hit through four innings, the White Sox had leadoff singles in the fifth and sixth innings off Carrasco, but Avisail Garcia and Kevan Smith were both doubled off on the next at-bat.

### Cubs 1, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Alex Avila knocked an RBI triple in the ninth inning, capping a duel between Jose Quintana and Gerrit Cole and lifting Chicago over Pittsburgh.

After Cole limited Chicago to two hits over eight innings, Avila scored pinch-runner Leonys Martin from second base with a drive to the right-field corner off reliever Daniel Hudson (2-6).

The only hits against Cole were Javier Baez's infield single in the second and John Jay's single in the eighth.

### Red Sox 6, Blue Jays 1

In Boston, Doug Fister gave up one run over seven innings, Jackie Bradley Jr. hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs and Boston beat Toronto a day after the teams played a 19-inning marathon.

It was the second straight win for the AL East-leading Red Sox, who moved four games ahead of the second-place Yankees. New York's game at Baltimore was rained out.

Playing just 18 hours after completing a victory that lasted six hours and ended on Hanley Ramirez's bloop single, the Red Sox took charge with a four-run fourth that was capped by Bradley's homer.

### Twins 10, Rays 6

In St. Petersburg, Eduardo Escobar had three hits and three RBI, Brian Dozier and Ehire Adrianza both homered and Minnesota beat Tampa Bay.

Minnesota ended a three-game skid streak and moved a half-game ahead of the Los Angeles Angels for the second AL wild-card spot.

The Twins scored three runs in the seventh to take the lead for good. Dozier, who hit his 29th homer leading off the game, was walked by reliever Steve Cishek (2-1) to open the inning.

### Nationals 8, Marlins 1

In Miami, Gio Gonzalez and four relievers combined on a six-hitter, and Washington beat Miami for the eighth consecutive time.

Gonzalez (14-6) pitched five scoreless innings but needed 101 pitches. Ryan Zimmerman hit his 31st homer, and Michael A. Taylor added his 14th.

The Nationals, who completed a three-game sweep, have outscored Miami 53-12 in their past eight meetings. Washington increased its lead in the NL East to 18 games over second-place Miami.

### Rangers 12, Braves 8, 1st Game
### Braves 5, Rangers 4, 2nd Game

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman hit a two-run double during Atlanta's five-run second inning against Cole Hamels and the Braves held off a rally to beat Texas and split a doubleheader Wednesday night.

Nomar Mazara had a two-run homer in the nightcap for Texas, which won the first game behind four hits from Elvis Andrus.

The Rangers are two games behind the Twins in the race for the second AL wild card.

Julio Teheran (10-11) earned his second straight home win, allowing three runs, five walks and five hits in five innings in Game 2.

### Royals 13, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Salvador Perez homered twice as Kansas City broke open a close game to rout Detroit.

The Royals snapped a 2-2 tie with four runs in the seventh, then scored seven in the eighth. Perez drove in three runs, while Whit Merrifield had three doubles and three RBI. Alcides Escobar had four hits, falling a homer short of the cycle.

Jason Hammel (8-10) got the win, giving up two runs, nine hits and two walks in six innings. He struck out six while winning for the third time in four starts.

### Athletics 3, Angels 1

In Oakland, Sean Manaea pitched six-plus innings of shutout ball and Khris Davis homered as Oakland snapped a season-high eight-game losing streak.

The Angels, locked in a tight wild-card race, were trying for their seventh series sweep and second against the A's this year. Los Angeles is among five teams competing for two wild-card berths that were separated by four games entering the day.

Manaea (10-9) struck out six and allowed five hits and three walks.

### Mets 6, Phillies 3, 6 innings

In New York, Robert Gsellman pitched well in a winning return from the minors and Travis d'Arnaud homered to help New York beat Philadelphia in a game shortened to six innings because of rain.

Asdrubal Cabrera went 3 for 3 with an RBI single and scored twice as the Mets improved to 37-17 against Philadelphia over the past three years.

Nick Williams hit a two-run homer and Cesar Hernandez was 3 for 3 with an RBI double for the Phillies, who trailed 6-0 before scoring three in the sixth off Gsellman (6-6) following Cabrera's throwing error at third base. But any hopes of completing the comeback were washed away when the game was called after a 57-minute delay with one out in the bottom half.

### Reds 7, Brewers 1

In Cincinnati, rookie Luis Castillo struck out 10 in his final start of the season, Zack Cozart and Jose Peraza homered and last-place Cincinnati completed a three-game sweep of Milwaukee.

The playoff-contending Brewers have lost four of five. Neil Walker's homer in the first inning was all Milwaukee could muster.

Castillo (3-7) retired 11 straight batters in one stretch and 22 of the last 24 while pitching eight innings. He allowed four hits, didn't walk anybody and wound up with a 3.12 ERA in 15 starts.

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# Falcons become butt of the joke after Super Bowl collapse

**FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga.** (AP)—Hey, did you hear the one about Choking Awareness Day?

It's held on 3-28.

Ba dum tsh!

Of course, that punch line is a punch to the gut for the Atlanta Falcons, referring to the score late in the third quarter of last season's Super Bowl when it looked as though they would finally win their first championship.

Then, as they remember all too painfully in these parts, Tom Brady and the New England Patriots scored 31 consecutive points to pull off the greatest comeback in the title game's 51-year history, winning 34-28 in overtime.

Brady collected his fifth ring.

The Falcons became the butt of the joke .

Lots and lots of jokes.

Even now, as Atlanta prepares to open the season Sunday with a road game against the Chicago Bears, there's no sign of the jabs letting up.

AP

Atlanta Falcons running back Brian Hill (38) tackles Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Amba Etta-Tawo (16) during the second half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Aug. 31, 2017, in Atlanta.

Just last weekend, when Texas A&M squandered a 34-point lead in the second half and lost 45-44 to UCLA , a Lou Holtz parody account on Twitter claimed the Aggies were unveiling a new logo. Naturally, it was the Falcons' distinctive emblem.

In New Orleans, home of the Falcons' biggest rival, the Dirty Coast shop on Magazine Street has been offering T-shirts with a scoreboard-like design "28-3, 3rd, 2:12"—when Atlanta was still up by 25. As if that wasn't enough to bring a smile to Saints' fans, the store also has been raising money to put up a billboard with the same design outside Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the Falcons' new stadium.

"I don't pay attention to that," Atlanta linebacker Deion Jones said with a shrug. "It happened. We can't go back and change it. So, I mean, you lick your wounds a little bit, then you have to get on with your life."

Atlanta coach Dan Quinn has pushed his team to look forward, not backward.

He keeps insisting there will be no hangover from the devastating loss.

"When we came back, I knew there was going to be questions like, `OK, how much more work do we have to do to talk about last year?" Quinn said. "I got my answer pretty early in training camp when I saw us go for it in the biggest way."

But he understands that plenty of Atlanta fans are a bit sensitive to all the barbs.

"I love our fans," Quinn said. "For them to get (ticked off) about it, that's cool with me."

That means you, Peyton Manning, who got in on the act at the ESPY Awards.

"I believe in the Falcons. I believe in (MVP quarterback) Matt Ryan and Dan Quinn, and I know in my heart the Falcons will be back," the former NFL great said, setting up his zinger. "I wanted the Falcons to hear that from me now, at the beginning of the show, because they're going to stop paying attention three-quarters of the way in."

Even two other NFC South rivals, teams the Falcons will face twice this season, couldn't resist the chance to pile on.

On March 28—yep, 3-28—the Carolina Panthers tweeted a picture of four players. But only two were tagged: No. 3 (Derek Anderson) and No. 28 (Johnathan Stewart). Clearly, that was no coincidence, which became apparent when the tweet was quietly deleted a few hours later.

A couple of months later, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers sent out a seemingly innocuous tweet pitching their team-logo fidget spinners. When the Falcons' account chimed in with a GIF of cornerback Desmond Trufant asking if the Bucs were "nervous about something," the Bucs quickly responded by tweeting a picture of cornerback Vernon Hargreaves (No. 28) celebrating with quarterback Jameis Winston (No. 3).

## BLUE

*From Page 32*

Chenille Espinosa tallied 4 points for HiDaze, which drew 3 markers each from Cassandra Camacho and Alipio.

In the men's open division, Nik Nak pulled off a 15-12 win over Rollers 2.

Mii Tekopua lifted Nik Nak over Rollers 2 after scoring 12 points, while Ben Lisua had 8 for the losing squad.

Other winners in the men's open division games were Trilogy, Paki 3's, Dark Horse, Almost, and Ol'Aces.

The Ol'Aces denied Nik Nak back-to-back victories last Wednesday after recording a 14-10 triumph in their duel. Dan Barcinas and Douglas Schmidt fired 7 and 5, respectively, in the Ol'Aces' second win in as many games. Dennis Moses led Nik Nak with his 5 markers.

Trilogy edged Rollers 1, 12-10, behind the 3 straight points of Jerome Norita. Norita finished with 4 points, the same output Trilogy got from Pete Lizama.

Trilogy missed going 2-for-2 on Day 3 of the tournament after they were beaten by Paki 3's, 21-16. Leo Galarse sizzled for Paki 3's after dropping 12 points.

Dark Horse eked out a 15-14 win over Pacific Islands Club 1, thanks to the 4 consecutive points of Edwin Camacho. Camacho took over from Maverick Saures, who had a string of 5 points before the former delivered in the homestretch.

Almost also leaned on the straight baskets (3) of Benwachi Taisacan to slip past PIC 2, 17-4.

Before Taisacan's heroics, Leroy Rangamar starred for Almost, firing 9 points.

In the U19 division, the Warriors eased past Ballerz, 12-5. Henry Aguon had 6 points for the Warriors.

Mix Breed, on the other hand, labored a 17-13 win over the Warriors to deny the latter their third victory in a row. Coby Santos made 8 points for Mix Breed.

In the two other matches in the boys U19 division, Island3rz edged V-God, 16-15, while the Ol'Aces 2 prevailed over LeAir Ballers, 17-14.

John Romeo Malasarte knocked in the go-ahead basket for Islands3rz, his lone field goal in the closely fought match. Roberto Paragados Jr. top-scored for Islands3rz with his 12 points.

Atan Aiferson and Kelvin Kabiriel combined for 15 points in the Ol'Aces 2's victory versus LeAir Ballers.

In the boys U16 division, Young Ballers and Baller Bros posted contrasting wins. Young Ballers escaped with a 12-11 triumph over Boonkgang, while Baller Bros dominated D-Squad, 23-10.

The Top 4 finishers in each division after the elimination will advance to the playoffs, which will be played tomorrow, beginning at 9am.

## KONQER

*From Page 32*

largest segment," said Endo.

He added that there's also a steady growth of five percent from college and professional males, while the year-to-year trend also showed a 10 percent growth of families participating, and women has a trend of 20 percent growth.

"There are different levels of challenges for everyone. There's for super athletes who want to further challenge themselves, and for amateurs who just want to finish the race that builds up their confidence. Some walk away feeling more confident," said Endo.

### Reminders

The race begins at Fiesta at 9am and the course includes a 400-meter swim heading toward the main venue at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in Puerto Rico. Large signs and volunteers will also direct competitors where the next portion of the obstacle course would be.

Participants are advised to prepare themselves by wearing non-slip shoes and having their own gloves. They are also responsible for other gears to be used in the race.

Organizers are encouraging people to watch the race since it is free of charge, while entertainment will also be provided in the duration of the event. Bleachers would be set up, but spectators are advised to bring their own beach chairs. Outside food are not allowed to properly manage the trash at the newly built park.

Kids in the U10 age group, meanwhile, will have a chance to experience obstacle racing with their own kiddie KONQER Land area.

## MARINES

*From Page 32*

the project.

Gunnery Sgt. Justin Park, Lance Cpl. Samuel Brusseau, and Community Liaison Officer Uriah Perez joined Patrick and McClester in the cause when they met with Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Jill Arenovski yesterday at the SCC office at the Marianas Business Plaza. Patrick said they are teaming up with the SCC and Saipan Young Professionals for the project. The USMC has also thrown its 100 percent support for their participation in KONQER and for the Toys For Tots project.

Patrick was among the 40 Marines that participated in the race in Peleliu and Koror in Palau on June 10 and 11 this year. One of the USMC teams finished second in the Relay Sprint division with a time of 3:14:12, while Patrick won the Solo Sprint category at 3:28:47.

He said KONQER Sports' race in Palau was special to the USMC because of its historical significance in World War II. Peleliu was the site of Operation Stalemate II where the 1st Marine Division and the U.S. Army's 81st Infantry Division fought Japanese soldiers to capture an airstrip that strengthened the Allies' offensive.

"We were invited to join the race and we decided to compete since Peleliu shares a deep history with the Marines. It is the site of one of the important battles of World War II where we needed to change our tactics against Japanese forces," said Patrick.

"It has an enormous impact for us and the entire unit is excited to hit the obstacle course in Peleliu. A historian joined us and he also competed while at the same time filled us with details of the history of each site as we go along the way," Patrick said.

He added they are expecting the obstacle course on Saipan is almost the same as the one in Palau.

"Volunteers and others who would monitor the participants are some of the things needed to have an effective race. We're expecting the same, but we must also be prepared for some surprises. We're hoping that it would be challenging for us. The tougher, the better," he added with a smile.

### Toys For Tots

McClester said the Toys For Tots program is now on its eighth year in Guam and 70th year in the world. The program encourages communities—business, individuals, and organizations—to do their share in gathering toys for less fortunate kids in time for the holiday season.

"We're just helping coordinate this on Saipan. We're going to actively stop the program on Dec. 14 but we're still going to accept donations for next year. We're accepting toys for different age groups," added McClester.

Various non-profit organizations—like Karidat and the Salvation Army—will be the recipients of the toys and they will be tasked to give the gifts to kids.

Patrick said Saipan is the farthest reached by the program.

"Some might wonder why give a toy? Every child deserves a toy during Christmas and the holiday season. You can't replace the look and the feeling of the children as they unwrap their gift and that makes it more special," Patrick said.

Arenovski said that they would also coordinate with other local organizations, like the Rotary Club of Saipan and the Soroptimist International Club NMI Chapter about the project. "Everyone can donate freely. So we could reach many kids."

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 79 | 61 | .564 | — |
| New York | 74 | 64 | .536 | 4 |
| Baltimore | 71 | 68 | .511 | 7½ |
| Tampa Bay | 70 | 71 | .496 | 9½ |
| Toronto | 64 | 76 | .457 | 15 |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cleveland | 83 | 56 | .597 | — |
| Minnesota | 72 | 67 | .518 | 11 |
| Kansas City | 69 | 69 | .500 | 13½ |
| Detroit | 59 | 80 | .424 | 24 |
| Chicago | 54 | 84 | .391 | 28½ |

**West Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 86 | 53 | .619 | — |
| Los Angeles | 72 | 68 | .514 | 14½ |
| Texas | 70 | 69 | .504 | 16 |
| Seattle | 69 | 71 | .493 | 17½ |
| Oakland | 59 | 80 | .424 | 27 |

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Washington | 85 | 54 | .612 | — |
| Miami | 67 | 72 | .482 | 18 |
| Atlanta | 61 | 77 | .442 | 23½ |
| New York | 60 | 79 | .432 | 25 |
| Philadelphia | 53 | 86 | .381 | 32 |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 76 | 63 | .547 | — |
| St. Louis | 72 | 67 | .518 | 4 |
| Milwaukee | 72 | 68 | .514 | 4½ |
| Pittsburgh | 67 | 73 | .479 | 9½ |
| Cincinnati | 61 | 79 | .436 | 15½ |

**West Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Los Angeles | 92 | 47 | .662 | — |
| Arizona | 82 | 58 | .586 | 10½ |
| Colorado | 74 | 65 | .532 | 18 |
| San Diego | 62 | 78 | .443 | 30½ |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Teen Ayuyus help train youth clubs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

In an unprecedented move, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and its technical director Michiteru Mita have dispatched members of the CNMI Boys U18 National Team to various youth clubs to help them in their training sessions.

Seventeen Teen Ayuyus were assigned to six clubs' co-ed U12A, boys U14, and girls U15 teams to assist in their practices every Wednesday. Alex Park and Carlson Cruzat are tasked to train MP United's U12 squad, while Clayton Izuka and Louie Calayag will team up for the same club's boys U14 crew.

For Tan Holdings' boys U12A team, it will be Jonathan Capayas, while Ryan Relucio and Mareko Tekopua will take charge of the boys U14 squad. Kanoa's U12A-2 will be handled by James Ermitanio and Thaiphi Austria, while Anthony Fruit and Joshua De Leon will team up for Paire's U12A. John Bucayo and Joshua Abragan are the designated players that will train Shirley's boys U14 crew, while Sunjoon Tenorio and Joshua Galarion will work with Southern United's boys U12 group. Southern's girls U15 has Chris Aninzo and Dai Podziewski.

"We have a very good youth league structure and clubs. However, clubs are struggling to find coaches that's way they can't have quality training. We could not immediately produce coaches, but we have national team players who have international and on-island experience. I thought if they support club training, they can give the young players great influence, not only on the technical side, but also with their mind set," Mita said.

"We started this program to improve and support youth development of club teams. We will also try to close the gap between our CNMI and international level," the NMIFA technical head added.

Teams can have the assigned players as their coaches for the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League, but they have to talk to the Teen Ayuyus involved, NMIFA, and Mita and his coaching staff to formalize the arrangement.

Mita said the program is not only beneficial to club teams, but also to the Teen Ayuyus themselves.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Boys U18 National Team's Joshua Galarion, left, performs drills, while Anthony Fruit waits for his turn during the Teen Ayuyus' training session late last month at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

"For the national players, through this program they can develop their sense of responsibility, leadership, and dedication. Our players are always thinking that they are supported by many people in the CNMI, so we also have a responsibility to contribute to the development of soccer here," the head coach added.

Mita and his assistant coaches Jersh Angeles and Jonathan Takano had a coaching workshop with the Teen Ayuyus last weekend and they learned basic knowledge in conducting a training session. The designated players are then required to submit to the coaching staff their training plan for the day before they are allowed to handle the teams assigned to them.

"They had their first training session last Wednesday and all the national team players enjoyed doing their responsibilities," Mita said.

## Thank you for the support

Meanwhile, club officials were thankful to NMIFA and Mita for "sharing" the Teen Ayuyus to their young players.

"As a new club, one of the challenges we face is the lack of enough coaches, so this support program is very helpful. The players are inspired to learn from our national team members as they someday hope to reach the Teen Ayuyus' level and play for the CNMI, too," Southern United's Ruselle Zapanta.

"They enjoyed their first session with the national team players and have a better idea on how to play their positions, especially our goalkeepers, who train with Chris (Aninzo)," Zapanta added.

MP United, though an established club, has the same problems with coaches, as some of them have already left the island to study so Mita's program is very timely.

"It is very helpful for us because we struggle in getting coaches this season as our former coaches are now in the mainland to continue their education. In addition, having skilled players showing the kids the proper way and basic fundamentals of the sport will improve the latter's game overall," MP United vice president and technical director Norman del Rosario said.

## *Fall youth league starts tomorrow*

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club will begin its title defense in the girls U15 division tomorrow when it takes on TanHoldings FC in the opening week of the 2017 NMIFA Youth Fall League.

Shirley's, which won the last five championships in the age group as it swept the 2015 and 2016 tournaments and the spring competition this year, will face TanHoldings in the curtain-raiser at 1pm at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field. Completing the triple-header of Week 1 of the fall league are the games between Matansa and Paire at 2:30pm and Southern United and Kanoa at 4pm.

The seven-team girls U15 division will have a round-robin format with the Top 2 finishers automatically moving into the semifinals. The bottom two will be eliminated, while the No. 3 to 6 placers will fight for the last two semis tickets. The defending champion Shirley's had a 6-1-1 win-draw-loss record last fall season to top the division and was unbeaten last spring with its 6-0-0 mark.

In other games this weekend, boys U17 defending champion MP United will duel Matansa in the 11:35am match at the Hopwood Middle School Field. Two more games are scheduled in the division with Kanoa battling the National Developing Academy at 8:15am, and Tan Holdings squaring off against Paire at 9:55am.

The boys U17 division has a two-round robin format with the team with the best record after 10 games getting the age group crown. MP United won last fall's championship after edging TanHoldings in a playoff game. The defending champion also defeated TanHoldings in a rubber for the spring crown this year.

In the co-ed U12A division, Kanoa was last year's fall season winner and the club will have two teams going for the age group title this season. Kanoa-1 will play Matansa in the first match at 2pm at the Hopwood pitch, while Kanoa-2 will meet Paire on the other pitch at the same time. MP United and TanHoldings will also see action in this weekend's opener.

Over at the Koblerville Elementary School Field, 2016 fall champion TanHoldings will begin its title defense at 1pm when it challenges MP United. In the second game at 2:30pm, it will be Shirley's vs Kanoa, while in the last match at 4pm, Matansa will battle Paire.

The opening week will also feature matches in the U8, U10, and U12B divisions at the various school pitches on Saipan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Shirley's Football Club defender keeps a close eye on a Matansa player during their girls U15 division game in the 2017 NMIFA Spring Youth League at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field. Shirley's will play TanHoldings at the start of the fall season tomorrow.

# Lopsided matches in Belau softball

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Lopsided matches were the order of the day in the 2017 Belau Masters Men's Softball League with Peleliu blasting Asahi, 22-3, to tie Brotherhood on top of the standings at 11-1.

Mark Flores and James Fleming led Peleliu's 22-hit parade, going 4-for-4 each against Asahi pitcher Perry Besong. They also combined for seven runs with Flores belting two homers with six RBIs and Fleming having two triples and an RBI.

Dominic Remeliik drove in four runs with 2-for-4 batting, Dominic Hideo went 3-for-4 to go with his homer, a triple, an RBI, and two runs while three more batters—George David, Ramon Villanueva, and Parker Yobei—each went 2-for-3. David also homered, scored twice, and had three RBIs, while Villanueva added two runs, two RBIs, and a double.

Villanueva started for Peleliu and was tagged with all three runs on seven hits with Mabel Ngirngemelas relieving him at the bottom of the fourth and immediately getting the first two outs after forcing Tobi Sebangiol and Matthew Kodin to 6-3 putout plays.

Ngirngemelas got the third out when he forced Robert Ngiramengior to a grounder that was played by Walter Macaranas to Charles Kenta after giving up a double to an earlier batter.

Meanwhile, the IPI SA Masters blitzed to a 17-2 win over Red Torch.

Jack Guerrero went perfect at the plate for IPI SA Masters, 3-for-3, had three runs, including a homer, and made two RBIs. J.J. Cabrera also homered on a 2-for-3 batting with two runs and three RBIs, while John Cepeda went 3-for-4, scored once and had two RBIs. Cepeda also pitched a complete game and surrendered two runs on five hits with three strikeouts and no walks.

In other results, Momma Charu bulldozed past Sufa, 15-3, to hike its record to 8-3, while Karui dispatched the Papa Bears, 25-14.

Del Potro spoils Federer-Nadal semis duel
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# KONQER participation increases

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

KONQER PHOTO
Female participants crawl as they tackle one of the obstacle courses in last year's KONQER Guam. Saipan will get a taste of this challenging and fun event this Saturday.

Obstacle course race is one of the fastest growing sports events in the world with the likes of KONQER Sports seeing a steady rise in the number of participants based on statistics organizers provided.

KONQER Sports chief executive officer and race director Kaz Endo said their obstacle course has different levels that attract both the extreme athletes and the weekend warriors. However, they are also pleased to see that youth participation increased rapidly in their three-year existence, thanks to their decision to wave the registration fees to students and individuals in the U14 age group.

"This is a unique race where even families can do it together. A lot of teens have joined and their participation shot up to 80 percent," Endo said in last Wednesday's press conference at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's executive lounge.

"One reason behind it is we opened the event for the said age group for free. A lot of middle school kids are now joining the race. This is good since kids nowadays just want to play with their iPads and other gadgets unlike most of us who grew up in a generation that goes out and play."

He said that some kids no longer engage in outdoor activities, while people are also getting accustomed to social media interaction, which lacks human contact.

"That's why KONQER Sports' manta is 'wellness through play.' KONQER started out in Guam in 2015 and was held in Palau this year where we also had a great turnout," added KONQER Sports president Kelli Wedd.

"We kind of created something different for KONQER where we allow people to have fun and at the same time cater to more extreme athletes. That's why on Saturday, we're all set to have an exciting event and have fun."

KONQER's statistics, presented by Endo, showed that youth make up 30 percent of their participants, 45 percent are adult males, while families are at 50 percent with adult women accounting for the bulk of racers at 55 percent.

"This is a unique product where families can do it together. Teens are also building up with a lot of middle schools now joining especially fees are free. Women remain our

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# Blue Babes splits games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Babes' Gillian Villagomez, center, dribbles in between the defense of CTSI's Madeleine Alegre, left, and Mikki Kautz during their women's open division game in the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Blue Babes posted mixed results in its pair of games in the women's open division of the Saipan leg of the 3x3 Hoopfest Marianas 2017 last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Blue Babes first played against CTSI and won, 6-3. Tawnie Manibusan scored 3 points, while, Quina Flores and Gillian Villagomez had 2 and 1, respectively. Jasmine Phan, Dianne Pablo, and Michelle Kautz each scored a point for CTSI.

Next up for Blue Babes was HiDaze and the latter earned an 11-7 triumph over the former. Mary Kay Alferos and Chevy Alipio made 5 points each to lead HiDaze's victory, while Manibusan paced Blue Babes with her 3 markers.

In the third match in the division, HiDaze also downed PIC Siheky, 10-4.

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JON PEREZ
United States Marine Corps Maj. Timothy Patrick, right, and Gunnery Sgt. Donnie McClester, left, join Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Jill Arenovski and coordinator Christine Tadeo for a group photo after discussing the Toys For Tots program.

## Marines joins KONQER for a cause

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

United States Marine Corps Maj. Timothy Patrick and four other Marines will be using tomorrow's KONQER Saipan King of the Hill to highlight their latest community project, Toys For Tots.

The obstacle course race starts at 9am at Fiesta Resort & Spa and heads toward the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park where various challenges await individuals competing in the Enduro, Completion, Business, and Sprint categories.

Patrick and four other Marines will compete individually in the morning before forming a team for the afternoon race. Organizers allow participants who compete individually to form or join a team and do the entire course again.

Patrick and company are encouraging members of the community to do their share and donate new and unwrapped toys for kids of all ages. They are going to set up a donation box in the venue while Gunnery Sgt. Donnie McClester will be given the chance to explain

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